

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 20 – NO. 42

also serving Erving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

OCTOBER 6, 2022

## Doctors’ Office Closing; Care Moves to Greenfield

By JEFF SINGLETON

**MONTAGUE CITY** – A primary care practice on Burnham Street, once a bastion of community-based health care, is slated to close at some point this month after two reportedly very rocky years as part of the Baystate Health system. Baystate, which purchased the facility in 2019, recently issued a press release and told patients they would be moving to offices on Sanderson Street in Greenfield.

Connecticut River Internists

(CRI), as the Montague City practice was once called, was founded in 1987 by Dr. Al Ross, who had previously worked at the Farren Memorial hospital, along with several other primary care physicians.

When Dr. Ross retired in 2010, four of his colleagues – Drs. Adam Blacksin, Wayne Gavryck, Joseph Viadero, and Laurence Cline – stayed on. All four had worked at the Farren and had helped Ross establish CRI.

According to a 2019 article in see **CLOSING** page A7

ERVING SELECTBOARD

## K-9 Program, Hybrid Cruiser Approved for Erving Police

By KATIE NOLAN

In a meeting almost four hours long on Monday night, the Erving selectboard considered promotions for custodian Rebecca Walsh and assistant planner Mariah Kurtz, new laws about textile disposal, and requests from the police department for a dog, a cadet, a fingerprint scanner, and a new cruiser.

Police chief Robert Holst asked the board to re-institute a police canine project in Erving with the addition of a bloodhound to the department. The previous canine program ended several years ago after other duties prevented Holst from spending time for the required training. He estimated an initial cost of up to \$13,000, which he said was unlikely to require an increase in the department’s budget, and ongoing annual cost of approximately \$13,000.

The officer selected as canine handler would train with the bloodhound for 3½ hours per week, with additional all-day training. The canine training time would be part of the officer’s scheduled weekly hours, or would be paid as overtime as needed.

The board agreed to re-instate the program. “I can get the dog tomorrow!” Holst exclaimed.

The chief also presented a policy for hiring a community service officer (CSO), a trained civilian who would provide non-emergency, non-enforcement tasks. This officer, called a “cadet” by Holst, would assist with administrative work and community outreach, and would provide enhanced security but not carry a gun. Holst said a CSO would assist the current six-officer department, and could be a candidate for police academy training and hiring if a vacancy occurs.

Board members said they wanted to review the policy more carefully, see **ERVING** page A5

SCENE REPORT

## Bidding Farewell to Sirum

By JOE R. PARZYCH

**MONTAGUE** – Adam Sirum and his mother Amelia Sirum, who turned 96 back in February, the longtime owners of Sirum Equipment Co. of Montague, said goodbye to their family-owned business at its final sale last Saturday. After a long journey serving customers and clients in New England and all over the place since 1961, the agricultural equipment company closed in September 2021, and on October 1 they held a final auction to liquidate their inventory.

The company advertised in the *Montague Reporter* for many years, and the Sirum family said a special hello to our readers. The family took many company tours around United States and overseas to different parts of world, including such places as China, to



General manager Adam Sirum was on hand at last Saturday’s final auction.

keep up on trends in agriculture. Ed Sirum, the general manager of Sirum Equipment for over 50 years, passed away in March 2017. see **SIRUM** page A6



Last Saturday’s auction drew considerable interest from bidders and well-wishers. The company served local agricultural businesses for 60 years.

## Senator Pushes State Aid For PFAS Contamination

By SARAH ROBERTSON

**WENDELL** – “Potable water has to be a right for every resident in Massachusetts,” state senator Joanne Comerford told the *Reporter* this week. “More and more of us will find our private and public water sources are contaminated, because PFAS really is so prevalent.”

Last month, water samples taken from the tap at Swift River Elementary School contained per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) at the highest concentration detected since the state began testing for

the chemicals two years ago. A sample collected on September 13 contained 71.7 parts per trillion (ppt) of the toxic man-made chemicals.

“[US representative] Jim McGovern and I are both tuned in, and I absolutely will be pressing the state for help for Swift River School,” Comerford said. “Mitigation and cleanup funds have to be available, and the legislature has to increase funding for testing and support for those entities with PFAS contamination.”

Since November 2020, regular see **PFAS** page A4

## High School Sports: Sheer Determination

By MATT ROBINSON

**TURNERS FALLS** – This week we focus on Franklin Tech girls’ soccer, and Franklin Tech football.

The soccer team, which is comprised of athletes from Franklin Tech and Turners Falls High School, are a third way through their season. They are a young team but they temper this inexperience with sheer determination, and even when they are trailing they never give up.

A field away, the Tech football team has struggled with injuries, forcing reserves to fill their ranks. After blowing out McCann on opening night, they suffered two lopsided losses, and going into last Friday’s matchup with Mahar, they sat at 1 – 2.

To notch things up for Tech, Mahar is also in the Intercounty North see **SPORTS** page A5



Franklin Tech’s Jill Crowningshield (in blue) passes the ball past defender Isabella Meadows as the Eagles hosted the Pope Francis Preparatory School Cardinals last week. The Cardinals continued their undefeated record with an 11-0 win.

## Biting Dog to Be Euthanized After Owner Violates Order

By JEFF SINGLETON

**MONTAGUE** – The Montague selectboard voted on Tuesday evening to euthanize a dog named Titan owned by Jason and Nancy Pike of Meadow Road in Montague Center. The decision, made following contentious and emotional “dog hearing” with town counsel Greg Corbo of KP Law present, came as a result of the board finding that Titan’s owners had violated an order issued by the town on August 3, and concern that he could escape again and attack a child.

The vote on the motion by chair Rich Kuklewicz was 2 to 1.

Titan had been officially declared a “dangerous dog” at the August hearing based on complaints by neighbors and several biting incidents in recent months. The board imposed detailed restrictions on the dog to be implemented by its owners, but Titan escaped and seriously bit a jogger on September 22.

Tuesday’s hearing began with presentations by police officer James Deery, who responded to the September 22 incident, and animal

see **DOG** page A8

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

## Wastewater Plant Upgrades; Tiny Lump-Sum Drug Award

By JEFF SINGLETON

The October 3 Montague selectboard meeting, devoid of controversy over biting dogs, footbridges, or historical hospital buildings, was relatively short and sweet, although it addressed a number of complex and costly infrastructure projects to be potentially funded by federal grants.

The first of these was a request by Clean Water Facility (CWF) superintendent Chelsey Little to execute a task order with the engineering firm Wright Pierce “not to exceed \$43,000” for preliminary design, bidding and construction oversight for the installation of a new emergency power generator at

the wastewater plant.

The board, in its role as “sewer commissioners,” approved the request. Little said the completed project could free up the space where the current generator resides for a conference room.

The board then approved another task order with Wright Pierce of \$9,900 for an engineering report necessary to submit a grant proposal to the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) to help build new screw pumps at the plant, as the current screw pumps are “beyond their useful life” according to the engineering firm.

Little suggested that the board allocate federal ARPA relief funds see **MONTAGUE** page A7



Northern Hemisphere Tipping Slowly Away From Sun			
Illustration: Monster Month.....	A2	Wrapping Paper Artist #1.....	B2
Local Briefs.....	A3	Device/Advice: Smart Houses.....	B2
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Anyone curious to pitch in all or some Thursday afternoons, for all or part of noon to 4 p.m., at or

around our offices on Avenue A in Turners Falls, should inquire at [editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org) or (413) 863-8666.

Opportunity for professional development and promotion. Thank you for your consideration!

# Sliding

The tendency to see, or the decision to portray, the push and pull of powerful forces shaping history in terms of a conflict among nations and among groups of nations is, in and of itself itself, creating conflict among nations.

We should all stop doing it.

Growing up, we were taught the Causes of World War One. *Militarism, alliances, imperialism, and nationalism*, one mnemonic goes. Looking back and trying to understand, they just seem... stupid. No human ideal was advanced by the Great War, and many were lost as Europe's rich and entitled pushed the rest into horrifying industrialized slaughter on the front. Stupid. Not worth it. Cataclysmic trauma.

The arc of twentieth-century geopolitics continued on from that mass trauma: from a common agreement that it should never be done again to a second, even bigger and grimmer go-around when sons seeking vengeance and restoration decided in a spasm of nihilism to do it all again but *on purpose*. A war, then, that must be fought against those who would start war on purpose despite what everyone learned the first time: this had its logic.

And then the third act, a phase shift, mutually assured destruction slowly turning inside-out all previous political logics; endless paranoid strategy games hovered over a glowing global map; decolonization and death squads; telecommu-

nication; war, eventually, by every other means available.

And then finally, the end: a smooth space; a long peace offered by a unipolar world; all the blood-caked uniforms completely dried and put in museums. There was nothing left to do but to extend the shopping mall into all the forgotten corners, build and enter the Internet together as global co-equals.

Having learned nothing, we did not take the opportunity of peace to build global institutions that could prevent war by delivering health and safety to all. Microsoft and Apple were doing such a good job tearing down walls that after a while those desiring alternatives started putting new ones up.

But militarism continued merrily along, and the economic structures of empire also kept reliably chugging... and now here we are with half a hundred chest-thumping nationalisms again, and alliances, and alliances that must be formed against those who would enter alliances on purpose despite what everyone learned the first time.

Last week *someone* blew up major natural gas pipelines under the Baltic Sea. It is a fork in the road: those certain it was the US state do not live on the same planet as those certain it was the Russian state. This separation cannot be fixed by war.

One day, we hope, students will learn about all of this, try to understand, shake their heads: *Stupid*.

## CORRECTIONS

In our September 22 article *Derby Day in Turners Falls* (Page A1), we wrote that "[i]t took about three years to get going" from the time soapbox race organizer Mik Muller first "started reminiscing" about a childhood soapbox race to the first annual event.

Mik took issue, counting eleven months from when he "first announced it in October of 2009." To an editor, it seems both could be correct, but we agree it is a helpful clarification.

Our September 29 article *Pardoned Dog Bites Again* (Page A1) named September 23 as the date the dog Titan allegedly bit a passing jogger. It should have been September 22. We apologize for the error!

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NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION



Jonathan Chappell gets the monsters ready for Skeleton Crew Theater's Halloween Week at Ja'Duke Theater, where it will be produced October 13, 14, and 15. Skeleton Crew is composed mostly of students at Turners Falls High School, where Chappell teaches film. The monsters can also be seen later this month at the Great Falls Festival.

# Letter to the Editors

## Local Foundation Funds Outdoor Learning

Acorn, Blackberry, Crocus.

Over the past ten years, dozens of nature-related words like these have been removed from the Oxford Children's Dictionary. Replaced with words like *attachment, blog, chatroom, analogue, broadband, and cut-and-paste*, these changes reflect the shifting experience of childhood in our digital world.

But even as we embrace the possibilities of technology to enhance our lives, we are also seeing disturbing losses – to children's emotional and physical health, to their capacity for patience, curiosity, and wonder, and to their sense of connection to the natural world.

In response, Leverett Elementary School teachers have begun using the woods, fields, and streams around the LES campus in an innovative effort to extend and expand classroom instruction. Drawing in-

spiration from forest kindergarten programs in Europe and from Antioch University's nature-based early childhood program, LES teachers are infusing abstract science concepts with hands-on experiences and exploring new contexts, materials, and perspectives for art, writing, even math.

By connecting students to the air, water, plants, and animals that surround them, they are helping Leverett children develop a deeper understanding of the natural world and the environmental challenges we must all navigate in the years to come.

Now, the Leverett Education Foundation is holding a major fund drive to provide LES administrators and staff with the outdoor classrooms, equipment, materials, and training to help them build a robust program of nature-based inquiry and reflection that will

strengthen the education they offer Leverett's children and make Leverett Elementary School a leader in the national outdoor learning movement.

To raise those funds, the Leverett Education Foundation ([www.leveretteducationfoundation.org](http://www.leveretteducationfoundation.org)) has recruited business partners and reached out to the community through the Acorn, Blackberry, Crocus Campaign in a collective effort that will run from now until the end of the year.

For more information, or to speak with teachers or administrators involved in the Leverett Elementary School outdoor learning and nature-based education project, contact me at (413) 230-9454 or at [info@leveretteducationfoundation.org](mailto:info@leveretteducationfoundation.org).

**Steve Weiss, President**  
**Leverett Education Foundation**



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By CHRISTINE PELLERIN

This is the time of year for fall festivals and fairs! This coming holiday weekend boasts the Ashfield Fall Festival, and the Paradise City Arts Festival in Northampton, but closer to home we have a **Fall Festival in Montague Center** from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. this Saturday, October 8, hosted by the First Congregational Church.

Don't forget about the Migrations Festival at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls, also this Saturday, from 1 to 4 p.m.

During the month of October, as part of the Heart's Desire art show and celebration, Art + Soul is offering a series of events to inspire and stretch your imagination. "Exploring Your **Spiritual Autobiography**," a program at the LAVA Center, located at 324 Main St., Greenfield, will take place Saturday, October 8, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Whether you're a writer or simply curious to know more, come to work with some prompts meant to jumpstart reflection on the trajectory of your spiritual journey. Suggested donation: \$10 to \$25. These workshops are intended for those aged 14 and above. For more information about this and other upcoming events, see [localaccess.org](http://localaccess.org).

The Montague Elks Club is hosting a **fundraiser for the Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter**, "Rockers for Barkers." Come dance to Curly Fingers Band and Tommy Fuentes Band from 6

to 11 p.m. this Saturday, October 8. Your \$10 admission fee helps to support the dogs.

Over the past several months, the Pioneer Valley Workers Center and the Botanic Garden at Smith College have collaborated to curate *No Somos Maquinas: Farmworker Resistance in the Connecticut River Valley*. Through the **words and portraits of area farmworkers**, this fully bilingual exhibit explores the broken immigration system, the exclusion of farmworkers from basic labor protections, and the conditions that compel them to rise up.

The exhibit consists of portraits, interpretive panels, and a timeline of farmworker organizing, as well as audio of oral history excerpts. It will be located at the Northampton college's Botanic Garden from October 3 through December 15.

Next Thursday, October 13 from 6 to 7:30 p.m., there will be an opening reception in the Weinstein auditorium at the Smith campus, including a panel of farmworkers who will speak about their experiences and reflect on the themes the exhibit highlights.

The **Juggler Meadow String Band** will play a hard-driving, soulful mix from Americana originals and covers, roots, bluegrass, soul, and blues next Friday, October 14 at 7 p.m. at the Great Hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments provided. Suggested donation is \$6 to \$15, children are free. Hosted by the Friends of the

Great Falls Discovery Center.

Sarah Bliss and Davey Bendiksen are co-hosting a **film program at the Montague Common Hall** next Saturday, October 15 at 7 p.m.

*Up and Down the River* will be an evening of artists' films on place and placemaking by local filmmakers living along the Connecticut River. The program of 11 short-form films celebrates (but isn't limited to) work shot and screened on celluloid, bringing together rich and varied ways of perceiving and making place – the places where we live and love, places of our imaginary, places that have shaped us, con-founded or intrigued us, places lost to us or which haunt us.

A live question and answer session with the filmmakers follows the screening. Masks are encouraged, but not required. Suggested donation \$5 to \$15. Please RSVP on the Facebook event page: [www.tinyurl.com/UpDownRiver](http://www.tinyurl.com/UpDownRiver).

The Brattleboro Museum & Art Center (BMAC) presents the 15th Annual **Domino Toppling Extravaganza** on Sunday, October 16, at 5:30 p.m. Doors open at 5 p.m. Tickets are available at [brattleboromuseum.org](http://brattleboromuseum.org) or at the door. Admission is free for children 8 and under, \$3 for BMAC members, and \$5 for all others. The event will also be broadcast for free via Facebook Live starting at 5:15 p.m.

The Leverett Historical Society (LHS) writes: "Ever wonder how 'Doc' Chapin filled his time between waiting on and philosophizing with customers at **Chapin's Store in North Leverett Center**? It was pretty clear that it was not with cleaning up, or even stocking shelves. Finally, it has come to light – he wrote poetry and short stories on the backs of cigarette cartons."

On Tuesday, October 18 at 7 p.m., LHS is hosting a Chapin

Night for readings and storytelling at the Moores Corner School House, 230 North Leverett Road. Thanks to guest reader Court Dorsey, LHS is in possession of Chapin's unique archive, and the night is dedicated to "recalling his persona and paying him homage." Storytellers are invited, and donations will be welcome.

A **new cookbook** by local author Tina Stevens, *Crisps Cobblers Cakes: Sweet and Simple Recipes Celebrating Delicious Fruits and Berries from Farms of the Massachusetts Pioneer Valley*, is filled with recipes for fruit crisps, cobblers, bars, muffins, pies, cakes, and more! The cookbook is available at many local farm stands and markets. See Tina's website for more information: [stevensdesign.com/COOKBOOK.html](http://stevensdesign.com/COOKBOOK.html).

The **Teen Center at the Brick House** has drop-in hours Mondays through Thursdays, 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. In addition to daily academic help, the schedule includes Expressive Arts on Mondays, Social-Emotional Learning on Tuesdays, Spooktacular Short Film Workshop from 3 to 5 p.m. on Wednesdays in October, and both Get Moving and an LGBTQ Support Group on Thursdays.

Parents can also enjoy a coffee hour every Thursday from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. The Brick House is located at 24 Third Street in Turners Falls.

The **Shelburne Arts Co-op** is looking for artists to exhibit work no larger than 10" by 10" at its November Small Works Show. Submissions will be accepted at the Co-op from October 21 through 31. The application is available on the home page of the Co-op's website: [ShelburneArtsCoop.com](http://ShelburneArtsCoop.com). The co-op is also in need of new working members.

Send your local briefs to [editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org).

## OP ED

By JOHN BOS

**FRANKLIN COUNTY** – After a two-year hiatus in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Cancer Connection resumed its annual fall fundraising event at Quonquot Farm in Whately with a brand-new presentation. Instead of its usual dinner and silent auction, the 22-year-old Northampton-based cancer support agency introduced a new and unique book of poems and images for people diagnosed with cancer at the sold-out picnic benefit on Sunday, September 11.

Created by four cancer survivors as a "thank you" to Cancer Connection, *Words to Live By (Poems and Images for Contemplation in a Time of Not Knowing)* is dedicated to the agency's co-founders Debra Orgera and Jackie Walker.

I first conceived of this book in 2014, and created it in collaboration with Pam Roberts of Shelburne Falls, who has led the agency's "Spirit of the Written Word" writing workshop since 2003, as well as Brunswick, Maine-based nature photographer Keith Carver, professor emeritus at the UMass Amherst, and book designer James McDonald of Northampton.

The new 130-page, full-color



Seven writers read the poems they contributed to Words to Live By at the book launch at Quonquot Farm last month. From left to right: John Bos, Nanci Newton, Janet Aalfs, Laurel Turk, Mary Ellen Kelly, Patricia Lee Lewis, and Pam Roberts.

book features 50 poems and short prose pieces selected to provide comfort and support to anyone with a life-threatening illness. Many of the writers are from western Massachusetts, some of them former members of Roberts's workshop at Cancer Connection. Others include such well-established authors as Jane Yolen, former US Poet Laure-

ate Ted Kooser, Wendell Berry, Jane Kenyon, John O'Donohue, and Lucille Clifton.

Each writing is accompanied by a photograph from nature, by Carver, an award-winning nature photographer.

The September book launch was far from a silent auction. Seven regional writers – Roberts, me, Janet

E. Aalfs and Patricia Lee Lewis of Northampton, Mary Ellen Kelly of Leverett, Nanci Newton of Hadley, and Laurel Turk of Florence – read their pieces aloud to the 100-plus benefit attendees.

In our introduction to the new book, we noted that many of the writers had no prior writing experience. "The words they thought they could not write," Roberts said, "are in this book." Readers are urged "to try writing for yourself" and to "use this book as a starting point for writing. Turn to a poem or image that resonates with you. What matters," the introduction says, "are your thoughts and feelings. Let your pen or keyboard take you to the place that is calling you from deep within."

The initial printing of *Words to Live By* was made possible by financial support from local donors. Because the first printing immediately sold out, Cancer Connection has ordered another 100 books. *Words to Live By* may be purchased for \$20, plus shipping and handling, from Cancer Connection at [cancer-connection.org/get-involved/special-events/](http://cancer-connection.org/get-involved/special-events/).

John Bos is an op/ed columnist for the Greenfield Recorder. He lives in Greenfield.

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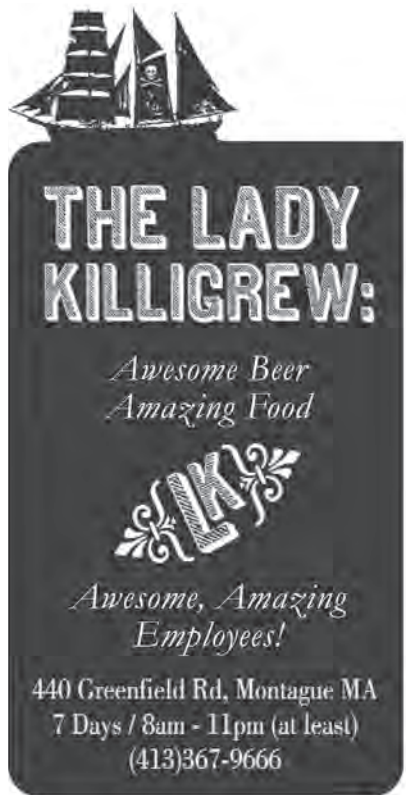
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Left: "Even the dead enjoy the  
Montague Reporter," observes  
Ericka Almeida of Turners Falls.

## MONTAGUE REPORTER ON THE ROAD

Right: "I travelled to Milwaukee,  
Wisconsin and shared the Reporter  
with the Fonz," Mark Swartwout  
writes. "He gave it a thumbs up."

Going away?  
Take us with you!  
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SUBMITTED PHOTOS

### PFAS from page A1

tests at the school, located on the border between Wendell and New Salem, have revealed PFAS concentrations much higher than the safe drinking water standard of 20 ppt set by the state of Massachusetts. The state measures the sum of the six most prominent PFAS chemicals, though thousands of similar compounds have been manufactured. Over the summer the state Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) ordered the school to submit a plan to address the contamination or face a daily fine.

"The source of the PFAS is unknown," New Salem town coordinator Kathy Neal said in an email. "I don't think they are spending much effort finding the source as it is quite prevalent everywhere."

After some debate over the best course of action, the Wendell and New Salem selectboards agreed last month to install a filtration system to remove PFAS from the Swift River School's well water. On Wednesday MassDEP approved the plan prepared by engineering consultants from Tighe & Bond on behalf of the two towns. Engineers estimate the filtration system will cost about \$75,000, plus \$7,000 annually to replace and maintain the carbon filters.

"We received a \$40,000 earmark from state ARPA funds which will be used to pay a portion of the cost and the rest is split equally between New Salem and Wendell," Neal said. "New Salem had voted last year to spend \$20,000 out of a capital stabilization account. If additional money is required, we will likely take it from ARPA funds."

Neal said the project will now be put out to bid, and the filtration system should be installed and operational in one year.

Ariel Barilla, a secretary at Swift River School, told the *Reporter* what the school is doing to function without potable water until the filter is installed.

"[W]e are using bottled water in the kitchen for all cooking purposes," Barilla wrote. "We also continue to ask that everyone, staff and students, bring in reusable water bottles from home. We have two fill stations in the school that have built-in carbon filtration systems. These stations are included in the PFAS testing program, which demonstrates that the carbon filtration is effectively removing PFAS from these two sources."

Testing has detected PFAS in the water at other area schools, in some cases at levels above the 20 ppt standard. Northfield Mount

Hermon School has occasionally tested above the threshold, but has averaged 17.75 ppt. Leverett Elementary School's water contains, on average, about 2 ppt. No PFAS has been detected in elementary schools in Gill, Shutesbury, Erving, or Montague, according to publicly available data.

The well at Phillipston Memorial School, a public elementary school which closed in 2021, was found to have 60.5 ppt last July.

### 'If We Know It's Bad For Us'

Growing awareness of PFAS in our water, food, and bodies is fueling regulatory action across the country. The chemicals are most famously associated with Teflon nonstick cookware, and are sometimes called "forever chemicals" because they do not break down in the natural environment and bioaccumulate in our blood and vital organs. They have been linked to certain cancers, reproductive issues, immunosuppression, and high cholesterol; long-term research on a range of other ailments is still underway.

The compounds have been used in waterproof clothing, anti-fog coatings, firefighting foam, microwave popcorn bags, makeup, and countless other products. Most Americans have been exposed to PFAS, according to the US Centers for Disease Control, and already have minute traces in their blood. A recent study at Stockholm University in Sweden found PFAS in rainwater worldwide.

California passed laws banning the use of PFAS in food packaging last year, and in textiles and cosmetics last week. In April, Washington state passed a law phasing out the use of PFAS in clothing, non-stick pans, cosmetics, cleaning products, and firefighting gear by 2025.

"We just have to ban it, and the market will catch up to us," Comerford said. "It's going to be uncomfortable, and it's going to be complicated, and there will be ramifications, but if we know it's bad for us we have to stop it."

During the last legislative session, Comerford introduced a bill that would have banned the use of PFAS in a broad range of products sold in Massachusetts, but it did not make it out of the Senate Ways and Means Committee. She told the *Reporter* she would reintroduce the bill when the legislature returns to formal session in January.

"We are a big enough state, with enough economic power, to do this. Other states have done it," Comerford argued. "There are market alternatives for almost everything – we can still get these products without PFAS in them."

### Chasing Plumes

Earlier this year, the state of Maine halted a state program facilitating the use of composted sewage sludge as fertilizer after it was linked to dangerous levels of PFAS contamination in drinking water, on farms, and in the milk of dairy cows.

A *Montague Reporter* investigation found that fertilizer made from municipal waste sludge has been applied on at least five Franklin County properties during the last decade, four of which are farms. No permits have been issued for the land application of biosolids in Wendell or New Salem, according to MassDEP Western regional office manager Kathleen Fournier.

"You can't imagine finding it around Swift River, so what was there before that contaminated their water?" Comerford said. "It's the same in Leverett. How is rural beautiful Leverett having these plumes of PFAS?"

Comerford commended state agencies for taking significant steps this year to detect and mitigate PFAS contamination. A private well testing program offered by MassDEP found a cluster of homes in North Leverett with some of the highest levels of contamination it found in the state. Many of these homes have since had filtration systems installed, but the homeowners are now financially responsible for the replacement and upkeep of these filters indefinitely.

Comerford said a state revolving loan fund, zero-interest loans, or individual grants could help people in these situations. "This is everybody's issue," she said. "We, as a state, should understand the financial pressure on individuals, and we should have answers for them."

Comerford is the senate chair of Joint Committee on Public Health, and was on the PFAS Interagency Task Force which put out a final report last April on how the state can address widespread PFAS contamination. The recommendations include funding for detection and remediation, phasing out PFAS in consumer products, expanding existing regulation to include more PFAS compounds, and addressing questions of chemical manufacturer accountability.

"The cost of PFAS detection and remediation has primarily fallen on those who have not contributed to PFAS contamination – individuals, communities, public water systems, and states – while manufacturers continue to profit from the production and use of PFAS," read the report. "Towns in Massachusetts have begun filing lawsuits against PFAS manufacturers to seek monetary damages for costs related to PFAS contamination."



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**ERVING** from page A1

and would discuss the idea again at their next meeting.

Holst asked for authorization to apply for a grant from the state Executive Office of Public Safety and Security to obtain a livescan digital fingerprint machine. Holst said owning this machine would allow the department to comply with criminal justice reform legislation without having to travel to Montague or Greenfield to borrow one.

Holst told the board that the town’s insurance company is likely to settle the claim for the gas-powered Dodge Charger police cruiser, recently totaled in an accident, for \$62,000. He said that orders for new cruisers are not being accepted until January, and one would not be available for a year or more. However, another town had recently canceled an order for a hybrid 2023 Ford Explorer utility cruiser, and it was available for approximately \$68,000. The board authorized him to purchase the Explorer, and agreed the town’s budget would cover the higher cost.

**New Jobs**

The board approved a job description for the new position of town planner, and promoted Mari-ah Kurtz from “planning assistant” (or “assistant town planner”) to the newly-created position. Smith said the new position involves “more autonomy, and more responsibility.”

The board also approved a description for the new position of senior custodian, and promoted Rebecca Walsh from custodian. Citing Walsh’s cheerfulness and willingness to take on new duties and go “above and beyond,” McCrory said “We could all learn from her.”

**Out of Control**

According to a memo from town coordinator Bryan Smith, the town’s

animal control officer and inspector of animals has been on leave, and the length of the leave is undetermined.

Smith wrote that the police department has been handling animal control issues, and can continue doing so for the short term. However, he presented a proposal for services from the Franklin Regional Animal Control Service from the Franklin County Sheriff’s Office. The board approved contracting with the Sheriff’s Office for animal control, until the end of the fiscal year, for \$5,000.

The regional program does not cover animal inspection, and Smith recommended the board appoint him as inspector of animals for the short term, because the state is requiring animal inspection reports “as soon as possible.”

The board declined his offer to fill the position, and authorized him instead to contract with an animal inspector from another local town for up to \$3,000.

**Textile Disposal**

As of November 1, the state Department of Environmental Protection is banning mattresses and textiles from disposal or transfer stations. Smith provided the board with information on four organizations or businesses that collect used residential textiles – either by curbside pickup, curbside bins, or special event collections – and asked whether the board supported providing textile disposal to residents.

Selectboard member William Bembury said he was in favor of placing a bin at the highway department.

Member Scott Bastarache said he has seen “overflowing, trashy bins” in other towns, and was leaning toward supporting home pickup of used textiles.

Highway superintendent Glenn McCrory commented that there were free electronics, brush and oil

drop-off locations at the highway department. He said that all of these drop-offs “have been taken advantage of, at a big cost to the town.”

The board decided the town will provide information about pickup service available from the Salvation Army, as well as the location of drop-off bins in nearby towns.

**Other Business**

The board appointed Mackensy Bailey to the school committee, Kathleen Sadler to the recreation commission, and Erik Eichorn to the board of assessors. They accepted the resignations of Eric Duffy and John Rice from the historical commission.

The board reviewed and approved the policy for COBRA, the program that allows health benefits to continue for a period of time after an employee leaves an employer.

The board approved upgrading the town’s Microsoft license, at a cost of \$6,000, to improve security, storage, and responsiveness to public records requests.

The board approved a change order for \$3,610 for the Mountain Road asphalt patching project, and \$6,350 for the Poplar Mountain Conservation Area parking lot project.

The board declared metal chairs, folding tables, and air conditioners from 18 Pleasant Street as surplus. It also declared the fire department’s Ford F550 brush truck as surplus, and transferred the 2013 F550 from the highway department to the fire department.

The board announced that 24 “Hometown Heroes” banners will be hung from the decorative light posts in Erving Center and throughout the town. The banners honor natives of Erving or current residents honorably discharged from the military or currently serving, and include portraits of the honorees.



## MONTAGUE PART-TIME ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

The Selectboard’s Office is accepting applications for an Administrative Assistant. Duties include performing clerical and secretarial functions for the Selectboard and Town Administrator’s Office, including filing and maintenance of documents and records, answering phone calls and emails, preparing correspondence, conducting research, updating website and emergency notification system, performing data entry, providing customer service, and assisting in the daily operation of the office.

Excellent interpersonal, computer skills, taking meeting notes, and attention to detail a must. This is a part-time (20 hour/week) union position (NAGE), Monday – Thursday schedule, excellent benefits including health insurance, vacation and sick time. Starting salary is \$18.26/hour.

The Town of Montague is an equal opportunity employer and is interested in candidates from a diverse range of cultural, ethnic, and racial backgrounds, and who are well-suited to understanding and addressing the needs of the diverse population we serve.

Please submit resume and cover letter to Wendy Bogusz at [wendyB@montague-ma.gov](mailto:wendyB@montague-ma.gov) by 10/13/22.

Full description available at [www.montague-ma.gov/p/308/Employment-Opportunities](http://www.montague-ma.gov/p/308/Employment-Opportunities)

## MONTAGUE TOWN PLANNER AND CONSERVATION AGENT

The Town of Montague, MA Selectboard are accepting applications for the position of **Town Planner and Conservation Agent**. The Town Planner directs the Planning and Conservation Department and supervises one full time assistant planner. The Town Planner works under the Supervision of the Assistant Town Administrator and provides professional staff support to the Planning Board and Conservation Commission. The position will administer regulations and programs pertaining to land use and environmental planning, and facilitate the long-range and village planning initiatives of the town. The Town Planner will enter into a well-established department with some exciting efforts underway relating to master planning, housing production, village revitalization, historic preservation, and creative economy.

The Town of Montague is a thriving community of 8,500 in the upper Pioneer Valley. The Town is comprised of 5 distinct villages including the mill village of Turners Falls, a cultural and economic hub of Franklin County.

Montague is seeking a creative, team-oriented, and experienced professional capable of independently managing complex projects, along with partnership-building abilities. Successful candidates will have experience in planning or a related field, strong public presentation skills and the ability to communicate effectively. Minimum qualifications include a Master’s Degree in Planning or related field and a minimum of two years of experience or a Bachelor’s Degree in Planning and five years of relevant experience. Salary range is \$62,170 to \$76,139 plus excellent benefits. The position is full time (35 hr.) union position (NAGE) with a Mon. to Thurs. schedule.

The Town of Montague is an equal opportunity employer and is interested in candidates from a diverse range of cultural, ethnic, and racial backgrounds, and who are well-suited to understanding and addressing the needs of the diverse population we serve.

Please submit resume and cover letter to Wendy Bogusz at [wendyB@montague-ma.gov](mailto:wendyB@montague-ma.gov) by 10/21/22.

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**SPORTS** from page A1

conference; a victory would boost their fortunes, but a loss would send them into the ICN cellar.

**Girls’ Soccer**

Jason Butynski, who is in his sophomore season coaching the Franklin Tech girls’ soccer team, has already won four games, matching last season’s total win tally. Last year the Kicking Eagles finished 4 – 14, but their last two games were victories, and according to Butynski they carried that momentum into this year’s play.

The Eagles currently sit smack-dab in the middle of the Bi-County Conference, just behind the Athol Red Bears. When they played the Bears earlier in the season, Tech went into the final stanza down 2-1. The Eagles scored twice, and stole the match 3-2.

There are still a lot of games to play for the Tech Eagles, and with such a young team, Coach Butynski expects to build on his success in this year and in the years to come.

**Football**

*FCTS 20 – Mahar 13*

Last Friday, September 30, the Mahar Senators traveled from Orange to play the Franklin Tech Football Eagles in a battle of Inter-county North rivals.

It was the first weekend of intraleague play, as all six teams in the ICN played against a conference rival. While Mahar and Tech battled it out in Turners Falls, last year’s champs, the Ware Indians, were shutting out the Palmer Blue Panthers.

Meanwhile, the other two teams in the ICN – the Athol Red Bears and this year’s odds-on favorite to win it all, the Greenfield Green Wave – were battling to a scoreless tie



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

*The Franklin Tech Eagles’ Anne Kolodziej (left) makes her move to pass around Cardinal defender Sarah Szalai as Tech hosted Pope Francis Preparatory School last week.*

at the end of regulation. Athol did go ahead and defeat Green in OT, and across the river, Franklin Tech eked out a win in the last 10.4 seconds of the game.

It was a tough game for Tech as Mahar came out swinging, dominating the first quarter and shooting out to a 13-0 lead. On the home side of the scrimmage line, the Eagles couldn’t answer. Their offense sputtered and their D was getting pushed all over the field.

After that second score, Mahar kicked off, ready for their defense to maintain control

over Tech’s offense. But their defense never took the field. Josiah Little received the kick, cut through a gap, and outraced everybody into the end zone.

Mahar, still reeling from the sudden score, was unable to stop the 2-PAT, and suddenly Tech was back in the game, 13-8.

Mahar kept their offense revved, and again mounted a drive. But on third and 4, Vincent Renaud tipped the pass, and Tech finally stopped Orange. Mahar was forced to punt, and the Eagles took over on their own

40-yard line.

It only took them one play, and 12 seconds to take the lead. A 60-yard pass to Nathaniel Fuess put Tech a point ahead with 5:49 left in the first half.

Mahar was not done by any means. They pulled it together and began another long drive. But on first and 10 from the 36, Madox Whitman intercepted the ball, setting up Tech’s third TD of the half.

With 24.7 seconds on the clock, Little hooked into the end zone, and Franklin Tech headed into halftime leading by a touch, 20-13.

The teams banged helmet to helmet in the second half, but turnovers and penalties kept both teams off the score board. Mahar benefited from two pass interference calls late in the fourth, giving them a first and 10 on Tech’s 24. The Eagle D stiffened up, and after four plays, the Senators were forced to give up possession.

Franklin was now in the driver’s seat. With less than two minutes of game play left, Mahar was out of timeouts, and the Eagles only had to run out the clock. But Tech proceeded to fumble the ball away, giving it back to the Senators with a minute and 26 seconds left to play.

After several plays, including three call-backs for penalties, Mahar was facing fourth and goal with 10.4 seconds left in regulation. The pass was thrown – but Landen Hardy snagged the interception to preserve a well-deserved victory.

The win gives the Birds a 1 – 0 record in the ICN, placing them in a three-way tie with Athol and Ware. It doesn’t get any easier for the Tech Eagles. Next Friday, they travel to Ware in a bid to unseat last year’s ICN champions.



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Auctioneers Donald Raucher (left) and Malcolm Speicher (right) had a busy day, with 198 items on the block.

SIRUM from page A1

Adam took over from his uncle as the company’s general manager. Amelia’s husband Tony Sirum, Adam’s father, passed away in January 2019.

There were 198 or more items sold at the auction. Donald Raucher, an auctioneer from Raucher Brothers Auctioneers of Florence, deals with all auctions of all kinds. He and his partner Malcolm Speicher – who also owns a business in Spencer called Beaver Works, which does beaver dam removal, trapping, and flood control work – were on hand as auctioneers.

People were making bids on many items, including heavy equipment and tractors.

Matt Hopkins of Small Engine & Chainsaw Repair made a visit all away from New Jersey to see items and bid on them.

Montague police K9 officer James Ruddock and his police dog Artie were on site as well, for traffic detailing. There was also a food truck on site, and people lined up to get food while taking a break.

Sirum Equipment held a great many open houses over the years. Joe A. Parzych, who wrote the “Gill Gourmet” column in the *Montague Reporter*, reported from the scene of many of these open houses with his grandson taking photos. He would often be multitasking, with cooking kielbasa soup at home at the same time. Since there was food at one open house a few years back, people were wondering if he



JOE R. PARZYCH PHOTOS

A very old John Deere tractor.

was going to bring his soup for everyone to sample. But the farmers were too busy looking at tractors, eating, and joking around.

Many years earlier, during his time self-employed in his business J. A. Parzych Excavating of Gill, Sirum Equipment had worked on repairing Joe’s 1962 Case W-9 bucket loader, which he once used during the Blizzard of 1978 while he was on call to plow snow for the Massachusetts Department of Public Works.

That Case looked similar to a Pettibone loader at Sirum’s auction last Saturday, though a closer comparison shows they are different animals, made by different manufacturing companies.

People may have been hearing about electric heavy construction equipment and farm tractors, a new

thing coming up the pike these last few years. They use them on jobs – how is it going? If you are working at a job site in the middle of nowhere or in the woods, and you don’t have an electric portable generator on hand to charge the battery, it could power down to nothing. I wonder if someday they’ll come out with construction equipment or tractors that run on an electric battery, but can still run on fuel if you can’t charge the thing in time.

In the meantime, going back to Sirum:

Everyone is going to miss them, but they will still be in town. Adam is still a Montague Center fire captain, and has done many other kinds of work as well after he left his family business. It was an emotional day, but a good day at same time.



Top: Amelia Sirum. Above: The door of an old truck. Bottom left: Matt Hopkins came up from New Jersey. Bottom left: A Pettibone Speedall loader.



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CLOSING from page A1

the *Greenfield Recorder*, the practice served 8,000 patients at the time it was taken over and renamed Baystate Primary Care (BPC). The sale was attributed to the impending retirement of the four founding physicians, who were all in their mid-60s and seem to have been optimistic Baystate would continue the culture the practice had developed over the years.

“Baystate has made a tremendous commitment,” Dr. Viadero told the *Recorder*. In the same article, however, he noted that offices run by primary care physicians may no longer be viable due to a growing shortage of doctors, and pointed to an emerging “model” reliant on nurse practitioners (NPs).

“We’re going to miss our patients, but we’re not going to miss running a business,” Viadero was quoted as saying.

Deanna Welch, a former NP at the Montague practice, said that though research shows NPs and physician assistants (PAs) can provide care comparable to MDs, the transition to the “new model” created an impression of instability and of a declining standard of service.

Multiple patients we spoke to complained that they had rarely, if ever, seen their primary-care staff member, and that when they tried to contact Burnham Street they were rerouted to Baystate offices in Holyoke or Springfield.

“I called to see my primary care physician, which I do once a year,” long time CRI patient Belden Merims told us, “and I found she had left the facility. Then they told me I did not need to have my annual blood tests done before an appointment any more, because that was not Baystate’s policy. But how could your primary doc then review your blood work with you?”

“My last appointment and my next one are on the telephone,” a Turners Falls resident and BPC patient told *Reporter* columnist Chip Ainsworth. “I don’t even know what my doctor looks like.”

Dr. Catherine Dodds, a primary care physician hired at CRI shortly before the Baystate sale, became medical director at the time of the official transition in January 2020. Dodds told the *Reporter* that “everyone knew” that hiring a new complement of primary-care doctors would be unrealistic, and that the practice was shifting to a “hybrid model” involving greater use of NPs and PAs.

Baystate hired more staff during a short “golden period” in early 2020, Dodds said, and the new model seemed at first to be working. Then COVID-19 hit, and with it came an effort to replace in-person doctor visits with telehealth, appointment policies shifting depending on the latest infection data, and ultimately more staff turnover.

According to Dodds, Baystate also began demanding greater productivity from staff, with more daily patient visits for shorter time periods. “It was starting to unravel,” she told us, and the NPs and PAs began to leave. Dodds said she found herself working 60-hour weeks trying to pick up the pieces, but felt increasing-

ly cut out of decision-making, and left at the beginning of October 2021.

Baystate spokesperson Anita Fritz declined to answer any questions about the closing, such as the date at which it will take place, and whether patients moving to Sanderson Street will be allowed to keep their primary care physicians.

Fritz provided a short press statement which states that BPC “merges in October” with Baystate’s Greenfield Family Medicine on Sanderson Street in Greenfield, and that the “consolidated practice” will be renamed the Baystate Health and Wellness Center “when reconstruction is fully completed in 2023”.

The statement said patients “will have access to a broader range of services” after the move, including specialty care and integrated behavioral health, and that the Greenfield practice hosts a residency program to train new physicians.

Attempts to contact BPC staff regarding the impending move resulted in a text from Fritz. “They aren’t going to respond,” she wrote. “You’ll need to go through me. As I said, I will contact you as soon as we have more information. At that time I’ll be contacting more media in the area.”

“[Baystate] may be ‘not-for-profit,’” wrote former CRI partner Dr. Wayne Gavryck when reached for comment, “but they continue to support corporate greed. Its executives earn multiples of the frontline workers, despite them not being able to deliver the care people really need. The rate of ‘burn-out,’ addiction, and suicide among front line workers has never been higher, and this started well before COVID-19.

“It is not just a Baystate problem, but they seem particularly skilled at taking a system that is working well and dismantling it. This is what I have seen in Franklin County. Just my viewpoint.”

“I don’t hold any malice for Baystate,” said Dr. Dodds, “but they hired me to be an innovator, and then dragged their feet.”

Dodds, who said she is currently working as a “traveling physician” with Community Health Programs in North Adams, faulted Baystate for creating the impression that the “new model” could replicate the patient experience at CRI. “The new staff would never replicate four experienced doctors who had served the community for years,” she said.

“The basic problem is that there aren’t enough primary care doctors,” she added. “It was going to change, but I think the new model could have worked.”

That new model is being tested elsewhere in Greenfield, where former Baystate Primary Care NPs Deanna Welch and Laura Clubb now work at Bridge Primary, a small practice on Arch Street, along with a third NP, Beth Savidge, and an MD, Dean Singer. The practice is not connected administratively to a larger hospital system.

“We’re doing our own thing,” Welch told us. “The human element of medicine is super important.”



MONTAGUE from page A1

to pay for the report, and town administrator Steve Ellis noted that \$800,000 from ARPA had already been designated for the project as a whole. Little then estimated that the entire screw pump project could cost “up to” \$2 million, and said that the “worst case” scenario was that the USDA grant would cover 55% of the project.

The board did not vote on the use of ARPA for the report but decided to “wait to see where we’re at” with the federal grant, in chair Rich Kuklewicz’s words.

Little then reported that state and federal regulators had been to the plant, and were “kicking off” the renewal process for its permit to discharge effluent into the Connecticut River. “It’s about ten years overdue,” she reported, nearly experiencing a laughing fit. She said she was “looking forward” to the process, because the lack of a new permit has led to some “extra reporting requirements.”

Little predicted the new permits would “essentially stay the same.” While they are expected to add requirements for PFAS testing, in response to increased concern about the “forever chemicals,” she said there would initially be no “limits” on PFAS until a period of docu-

mented testing.

Finally, Little discussed the idea of requesting a new pickup truck at a winter special town meeting. She said it would make sense to replace the truck, one of two the facility owns, with a new “electrical transit van.” Board members expressed support for that, but did not take a formal vote.

Recovery Funds

Former town planner Walter Ramsey came before the board, wearing his new hat as assistant town administrator, to present an initial proposal for the use of federal ARPA funds for “downtown business recovery.”

The projects, costing potentially a total of \$150,000, include improved holiday decorations featuring lighted snowflakes, winter parking signage, streetscape “odds and ends” like planter repairs, a two-year stipend for the Great Falls Farmers Market coordinator, and “gateway signs” to post at the town’s five villages.

The board voted to endorse \$35,000 for the holiday decorations and winter parking signage, which were deemed time-sensitive.

Elderly Services

Cindy Spellman of the elder services organization LifePath came

before the board to discuss the progress of a “homeshare” program funded through federal block grants to the Montague and the town of Orange. The program focuses on the exchange of elderly residents’ services, potentially for reduced rent, though Spellman presented a range of possible options for homeowners and those in need of housing.

Selectboard member Matt Lord asked Spellman how many participants she was aiming for in the near future.

“I shoot for the *stahhs*,” she responded, noting that she had consulted with HomeShare Vermont in Burlington, the second-oldest such program in the country.

Cable Franchise

Town administrator Steve Ellis told the board that the cable company Comcast had notified the town that the process for renewing its license, known as a “franchise agreement,” would soon commence. The current agreement expires on August 31, 2025. The town plans to hire a special counsel to assist in the negotiations, Ellis said, “as it is its own unique discipline.”

Selectboard member Chris Boutwell said the town should look at past contracts “to make sure

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LOOKING BACK:  
10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on October 4, 2012: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Volunteers Unite to Clean Up Connecticut River Watershed

Rather than sleep in late on a Saturday morning, 75 volunteers turned up at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls to pick up equipment, receive site assignments, and learn a few safety rules before heading out for the 16th annual Connecticut River Source-to- Sea Clean-up. Students from Gill Elementary School's 6th grade, Deerfield Academy students doing community service, students from Frontier School, and UMass Water Geographies classes all represented their institutions well in the diligence and energy with which they went to work. A number of families and unaffiliated individuals also joined in.

Turners Falls-Gill: Two-Way Traffic Shall Rise Again

The good news is that the Gill-Montague bridge reconstruction is right on schedule. There are just two more pours to finish the closed

lane of the bridge. Those will be of the same high-performance, 6,000 pounds per square inch concrete SPS Construction has used on the prior pours. After the final pours, SPS will pave the concrete with a one-and-a-quarter-inch-thick bituminous base coat, followed by an inch and a quarter of modified bituminous for a top layer. The bad news is that the bridge will remain open only to one-way traffic for some time. While the job appears to be rapidly nearing completion, workmen are hard at work out of sight on the underbelly of the bridge, with a great deal more left to do. The completion date for the project is still April of 2014. However, there is a glimmer of hope. Sara Lavoie, press secretary for the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, sent word that "MassDOT has had conversations with local officials and the business community relative to the impacts of this project. MassDOT has asked its contractor, SPS New England, to present options for accelerating the restoration of two-way traffic. The options will take some time to prepare and will include modified costs and a modified construction schedule."

[Comcast] did what they were supposed to do.”

Ellis noted that “there may have been some regulatory changes” since the last contract negotiation.

“We need to get our cable advisory committee reinvigorated,” Kuklewicz said, adding that the town should bring local access station Montague Community Television into the process.

**Other Business**

Ellis gave an update on the implementation of a “pavement management study,” financed by state funds and monitored by Ramsey.

Lord said he was “clueless” about what a pavement management study was, and Ramsey explained that it was “an assessment of all the roadways” in town, and helps set priorities spending Chapter 90 state aid for road work. Ramsey said the Franklin Regional Council of Governments would undertake the study. “They’re out there looking at the roads now,” he said.

On Ellis’s advice, the board voted to accept \$8,520, Montague’s share of the state opioid settlement with the pharmaceutical company Johnson & Johnson, in the form of a “lump sum” rather than spreading the payment out over four years.

The board approved the use of the sidewalk in front of the sports bar Between the Uprights and granted the business a one-day “café license” to serve alcohol on the space on Saturday, October 22, the date of the Great Falls Festival, formerly Pumpkinfest, in downtown Turners Falls.

At the request of library director Caitlin Kelley, the board appointed Jillian Henry as a substitute library assistant.

The board retired into an executive session to discuss property exchange negotiations with FirstLight Power. The next regular board meeting will be held Monday, October 17.



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**DOG** from page A1  
control officer Calin Giurgiu, who has visited the dog, who has been housed in the regional shelter on Sandy Lane, as well as the scene of the incident.

Giurgiu said the shelter had had “no problem” with Titan, but the animal control officer from the sheriff’s office, which operates the shelter, said Titan had to be segregated from other dogs due to aggressive behavior.

This was followed by responses from the owners, Nancy Pike and her son Jason, who arrived late at the hearing due to his work schedule. Nancy Pike described the process by which the dog was brought between the house and the outdoor kennel, and her efforts to buy additional homeowners insurance for the dog, as previously ordered by the board.

“We’re trying to do everything we can,” she said. “My poor granddaughter – every night she now screams ‘goodnight Titan,’ and every morning she screams ‘good morning Titan.’ That’s part of her life support. She’s lost without him.”

During the questioning and discussion by the board, it was noted that there were contradictions among the various accounts of the biting incident on September 22. But, board members stated, all seemed to agree that the dog had not been muzzled when he escaped from his restraint, a violation of the board’s August 3 order.

The selectboard discussed the options before them at length. Kuklewicz said that the Pikes had clearly violated the board’s order.

“I’ve laid awake at night because, I have had dogs for over 40 years, and understand what a piece of your life they are,” he said. “But it has not been demonstrated that he is able to be controlled. I feel for you, and understand, but also have a responsibility to the residents of the community.”

Kuklewicz then mentioned a statement by animal inspector Kathleen Burek expressing concern that Titan could get free again and attack a child.

Nancy Pike asked to respond to this statement, but her son Jason told her not to bother. “It doesn’t matter, they want to kill him anyway,” he said.

Several speakers at the hearing, including Ariel Elan and Jean Conway of Montague Center, argued that the dog should not be held accountable for the mistakes of its

owners, and instead should be rehabilitated.

“I suggest we get a qualified trainer to look at this dog to see if he can be rehabbed to be a good canine citizen,” said Conway, who said she was “advocating for the dog.”

Elan asked if there were programs to retrain dogs in these circumstances.

“The idea of training and socialization probably comes at a steep financial cost,” said Corbo later. “And there is the question of whether there are resources to accommodate that cost.”

The dog’s owners did not have their own counsel at the hearing, and efforts to determine whether there is case law bearing on the issue were unsuccessful as of press time.

Chapter 140 Section 157(h) of Massachusetts state law, partially read aloud by Corbo during the hearing, contains a detailed list of consequences that must be imposed if the owner of a dangerous dog is found in violation of an order, including seizing and impounding the dog, surrender of the dog’s license and tag, and prohibiting the owner from licensing a dog in the state for five years.

The section quoted does not mention euthanasia of the dog as one of the consequences of an owner violation of an order. Euthanasia was mentioned as one of the seven options available to the local board when it declares a dog “dangerous,” which the selectboard did on August 3. This section of the law does not establish any other criteria for that consequence, such as the violation of an order.

Before the selectboard vote, Corbo suggested that once the August 3 order was found to have been violated, the dog would legally come under the control of the animal control officer, who could euthanize him because “he was not owned by anyone.”

In the end, Matt Lord, expressing reluctance, joined Kuklewicz in the vote to euthanize Titan.

“I’m uncomfortable with that,” said member Chris Boutwell, who voted “no.”

Contacted by the *Reporter*, Lord, who is a lawyer, issued the following statement: “I do not think there is any legitimate question as to whether the Selectboard used its powers properly under Chapter 140 Section 157 in ordering the euthanization of the dog.”



## 2022 Source to Sea Cleanup

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### Participating Groups:

Deer Paths Nature School • Trash Slinging Trashers  
Franklin County Technical School Landscape & Horticulture Shop  
Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation  
Turners Falls High School • Atlantic Beach Keepers  
Wards of the Woods • Woodsmith Forestry  
Dozens of individuals and families



BETH PELTON PHOTOS

### Debris Removed:

- 20 cubic yards in dumpster (8 standard pickup truckloads)
- 11 standard-size tires, 4 of which were on rims
- 5 cubic yards of recyclable containers (2 pickup truckloads)
  - 1 small TV
  - 1 microwave
  - 1 ton scrap metal
- 2 gallons paint (treated)
- a 5-gallon of unknown household hazardous waste



### Donors:

FirstLight Power  
USA Hauling & Recycling  
Town of Montague, Transfer Station/Highway Department  
MA Department of Conservation & Recreation  
Woodsmith Forestry  
Wagon Wheel Restaurant

Top right: Deer Paths Nature School pulled tires and so much more from the Millers River in Erving and Millers Falls.

Above: A volunteer with the Great Falls Discovery Center team cleans the path between the bike path and Food City.

Bottom right: FirstLight Power engineer Luke Detwiler does the trash bag workout while pitching debris into the dumpster.

### Event Organizers:

Beth Bazler, Michael Pattavina, Beth Pelton & Carter Wall, *FirstLight Power*

Stacey Lennard, Abigail Thraikill & more, *Connecticut River Conservancy*



### PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

## State Rep Candidates Go Toe to Toe

**PETERSHAM** – The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts will hold a candidate forum for the candidates for state representative, 7th Hampden District, at Petersham Town Hall, 1 South Main Street in Petersham, on Wednesday, October 19, from 7 to 8 p.m. The event is open to the public, and the building is handicap accessible.

The 7th Hampden is a new district effective January 2023. The new district consists of seven towns – Belchertown, Ludlow, New Salem, Pelham, Petersham, Shutesbury, and Wendell – spread across four counties, Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester counties.

Early voting will be held October 22 through November 4, and polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on November 8.

The October 19 forum will feature James “Chip” Harrington, the Republican Party candidate, and Aaron Saunders, the Democratic Party candidate.

Proposed questions for the candidates will be collected from the audience in attendance, or may be submitted in advance – no later than October 12 – to the moderator, Shelley Rodman of the League of Women Voters Worcester Area, at [shelleyfrodman@gmail.com](mailto:shelleyfrodman@gmail.com).

Students of R.C. Mahar Regional School and the League of Women Voters of Amherst will be assisting with the event. Efforts to broadcast the event live, or to record and post it online, are being made; details will be forthcoming when available. If your organization is interested in covering the event, please contact Maryanne Reynolds at [mreynolds@rcmahar.org](mailto:mreynolds@rcmahar.org).

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Amanda Gorman, *The Hill We Climb*

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FEATURES@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER OCTOBER 6, 2022

Above: On McClelland Farm Road in Deerfield, under the rail bridge to Montague, a disused booth.

# Transportation Transitions In 1920s Turners Falls



Top: This photo of Henry Beaumier was taken in August 1922 behind his Central Street home. Below: At the railroad depot at Turners Falls, left to right: track foreman Jerry Moynihan; assistant station agent Henry E. Beaumier; helper John Quinn; and station agent George Boss, with his son Eugene.

By LOUISE BOUCHER CROLL

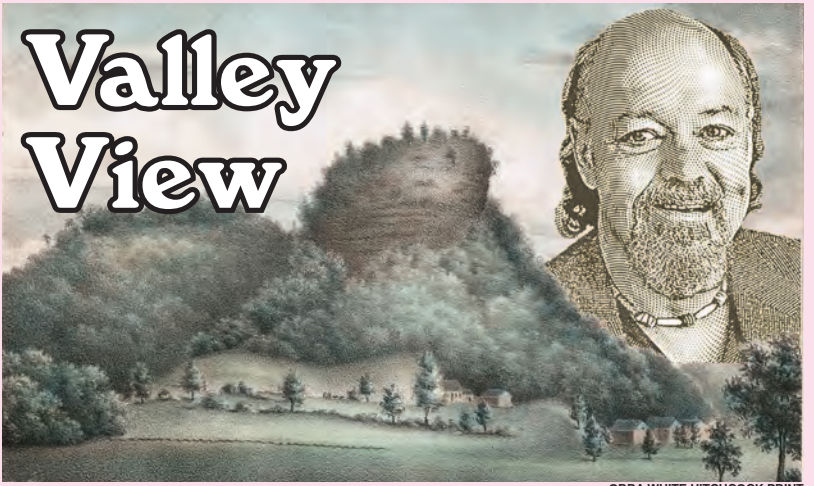
**TURNERS FALLS** – Expecting a package? UPS, Amazon? How about Express?

Express? Isn't it FedEx?  
Meet Henry E. Beaumier, of Haigis and Beaumier. The US Census of 1920 lists Henry's profession as "Agent," and his business as "Express."

Let's start at the beginning by turning the clock back to 1902 and taking a close look at the bottom photo. Henry Beaumier is second from the left in this photo. That's the New York, New Haven, and Hartford Railroad depot in Turners Falls! Henry E. Beaumier (HEB), son of parents who had immigrated from Quebec, had started as a helper in the Freight House at \$9.60 a week. (That's not an hourly, or even daily, wage!)

By 1902, when this photo was taken, HEB was nineteen and had been promoted to Clerk and Telegraph Operator at \$12.60 a week. His next position was Assistant Station Agent, leading up to his appointment in 1904 as Station Agent at a whopping \$25 weekly.

That was certainly enough to win over Rose Blanche Desmarais! In June 1905, HEB and Blanche were wed in the French-speaking Catholic parish in Northampton. They see **TRANSITIONS** page B8



By GARY SANDERSON

**GREENFIELD** – Unexpected diversions and distractions can sometimes strike historical gold... like the one I stumbled across last week.

Most often these unexpected discoveries come to light as what I refer to as "peripherals" – that is, random findings unveiled entirely by dumb luck while reading, researching, or engaged in informal conversation. Nowhere do such bits of helpful information appear more regularly than newspaper archives. That's where you find an interesting obituary accompanying one you're seeking, front-page stories next to the one you're chasing, or even gossipy little blurbs from a town adjacent to the one you're exploring.

Because such surprise discoveries are fleeting and often elusive, they can be difficult to recover if you don't immediately capture them. I have learned the hard way to jot down notes by any means necessary or risk losing unexpected data. Trying a few days later to retrace the path back to such peripherals is rarely easy, and at best time-consuming.

My latest such finding occurred during a recent early-morning telephone conversation with Paul Olszewski of South Deerfield. Five years younger than me, Paul grew up in the same neighborhood as I did, and we have known each other in passing for decades. In recent months, we have had many discussions about the history of his North Main Street property. Our conversations have ventured back to founding Muddy Brook families like Barnard, Cooley, Wright, and Anderson, and later immigrant families like Gorey, Yazwinski, Milewski, Bartos, and his very own.

Our latest chat was focused on a 1909 deed his wife had recently studied. The land record transferred less than an acre of North Main Street frontage from William Gorey to his son Robert. The lot on the other side of Bloody Brook from his father's antique farmhouse provided more than enough space for Robert's two-story dwelling, currently owned and occupied by Olszewski.

Being familiar with the document, I filled in additional details

about the property reaching back to the original 1688, so-called Long Hill Division East lot, "bounded west by the Country road leading from Deerfield to Hatfield."

During the meandering discussion that ensued, most of it focused on North Main Street, Olszewski shared an interesting fact. He revealed that his two-bay garage was built as an add-on by the well-known South Deerfield building contractor Bill Gass – the man credited with restoring Historic Deerfield houses to the colonial museums they are today. Off we traipsed into a spontaneous discussion about the colonial-restoration guru.

**Classical Gass**

I soon learned that Olszewski was a valuable source of Gass information. He was able to identify South Deerfield structures built by Gass and, even better, some signature design elements that were immediately familiar to me. His insight came from deep collective memory, having been captive audience to many holiday family conversations involving his Uncle Francis (Olszewski).

I knew his uncle a wee bit from my teenage years myself – when I met him, he was teaching carpentry to his students at Smith Voke in Northampton – but had no clue that as a young man he had learned his carpentry skills from master builder Gass himself.

I already knew a little about Gass's historic-restoration expertise, and less about his signature architectural design details. Recently I learned that he was also a house mover. An example was his move of Old Deerfield's Ashley House back to its original location. Another similar project was his move of South Deerfield's old Frary Tavern to Old Deerfield, where it now stands as the Bloody Brook Tavern Museum.

Gass also had a hand in moving the Hall Tavern from East Charlemont to Old Deerfield, and salvaging many antique Swift River Valley buildings doomed by the Quabbin Reservoir project of 1938. Thanks to Gass and other joiners of his ilk, many of those old, condemned homesteads from the submerged ghost towns of Dana, Enfield, Greenwich, and Prescott see **VALLEY VIEW** page B4

## Notes From a Heartfelt Life Part I: Volunteering

By TROUBLE MANDESON

A small group of thoughtful people could change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.  
– Margaret Mead

**GREENFIELD** – Imagine giving your time and labor freely to others for no more reward than the high one gets from helping.

Oh, you haven't heard of this type of high? It doesn't get smoked in a pipe, drunk on the rocks, or swallowed down like a bitter pill. Oh no, this high comes from the endorphins, nature's natural pain reliever, that flood your body when you bestow a kindness on another being. This is sometimes referred to as "helper's high."

see **NOTES** page B5



The author prepares to deliver a lasagna for LasagnaLove.org, a website where individuals and families can order a free lasagna, no questions asked, with all costs, labor, and travel time donated by the volunteer cook.



# Pet of the Week



## “PRINCE”

Prince is a sweet, energetic little fellow. He loves being with his people and going for walks.

Laps are one of his favorite things and he will snuggle up while you watch TV, work, read – just about anything that gives him access to a comfy lap! His adorable little ears are constantly listening to everything around him. Prince is a sensitive guy who needs a little time to warm up to new people but once he does, he'll be your best buddy. This little nugget needs a home with adults only.

Interested in adopting? Animals at Dakin are available only in Springfield currently. Contact adoption staff at [springfield@dakinhumane.org](mailto:springfield@dakinhumane.org) and include your name and phone number. For more information, call (413) 781-4000 or visit [www.dakinhumane.org](http://www.dakinhumane.org).

## Senior Center Activities OCTOBER 10 THROUGH 14

<b>WENDELL</b> Foot care clinic the first Wednesday of each month. Call Katie Nolan at (978) 544-2306 for information or appointments. Senior Health Rides are now available. Contact Jonathan von Ranson at (978) 544-3758 to set up a ride.	<b>Thursday 10/13</b> 1 p.m. Cards & Games 5:30 p.m. Exercise <b>Friday 10/14</b> 10:15 a.m. Aerobics 11 a.m. Chair Aerobics
<b>LEVERETT</b> Chair Yoga classes are held on Zoom on Wednesdays. Foot care clinic is held monthly. For more information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022 x 2, or <a href="mailto:coa@leverett.ma.us">coa@leverett.ma.us</a> .	<b>ERVING</b> Erving Senior Center is open 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. Open for cards, coffee, and snacks daily. Brown Bag lunch is the first Thursday of each month. Veterans Services the first Wednesday of each month. Erving van services available: Must call 24 hours in advance for a ride to any scheduled appointment. For more information, please call (413) 423-3649.
<b>GILL and MONTAGUE</b> The Gill Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information please call 863-9357.	<b>Monday 10/10</b> 10:15 a.m. Aerobics 11 a.m. Chair Exercise 12 p.m. Pot Luck Lunch 1 p.m. Knitting & Handcrafts <b>Tuesday 10/11</b> 10 a.m. A Matter of Balance 1 p.m. Chair Yoga 3 p.m. Tai Chi <b>Wednesday 10/12</b> 9 a.m. Foot Clinic (by appointment) 4 p.m. Mat Yoga
	<b>Monday 10/10</b> 9 a.m. Interval 10:15 a.m. Seated Workout <b>Tuesday 10/11</b> 9 a.m. Good For U 10 a.m. Line Dancing <b>Wednesday 10/12</b> 9 a.m. Cardio Low Impact 10:15 a.m. Chair Aerobics 11:30 a.m. Bingo <b>Thursday 10/13</b> 9 a.m. Core & Balance 10 a.m. Barre Fusion <b>Friday 10/14</b> 9 a.m. Quilting & Open Sew

## MR Wrapping Paper Edition Artist Profiles: #1

By REPORTER STAFF

This summer we invited people to submit design proposals for a special Wrapping Paper Issue, to be printed in November. This fundraiser for the *Montague Reporter* will feature full color designs printed on double pages of newsprint, meant to wrap presents in. We received 34 submissions to our call.

Seven of these pages are going to feature the work of local artists chosen from the proposals we have received, with a cover image created using *MoRe* headers from the past year.

We are so excited to bring these wonderful designs to life in this special issue, which will go to press on Thanksgiving week! We have asked each artist the same three questions.

Dani Adams proposed a design using a collage of blue skies with small scenes of flora and fauna found in the Northeast region such as deer, squirrels, songbirds, red pine, white



spruce, phlox, and rose. They would like these floating orbs to “create a dreamlike scene that serves as a remembrance of the incredible natural beauty that surrounds us.”

Dani answers our three questions:

**MR:** *What would you want your wrapping paper to say, and feel like, for the person it is being gifted to?*

**DA:** I hope that it evokes a sense of wonder and appreciation

for the birds that sing their morning songs, for the deer as they walk softly upon the October leaves, and the mountains as they stand tall against the horizon line.

If the wrapping paper could be a feeling, I would like it to be like that of a crisp, yet comforting breeze that whispers, *All will be well.*

**MR:** *What gifts would you want to receive wrapped in your paper?*

**DA:** A book of poems, a hand-made bowl. A soft scarf.

**MR:** *What other gifts have newspapers given you over the years?*

**DA:** For me, newspapers, especially local ones, have always been a resource for connection and remembrance. If I feel like I am growing disconnected, opening up a local newspaper always reminds me of how I am part of the greater whole, and that sense of perspective will always be a gift.



## Wait to Buy That New ‘Smart Home’ Gadget

By RYNE HAGER

**TURNERS FALLS** – There’s a very reasonable privacy and security argument against the push for “smart home” hardware. Others see it as superfluous – and, for a lot of people, it probably is. My smart thermostat has saved me a lot of money in heating bills, my smart doorbell is handy to see when packages arrive if I’m out of town (or just distracted), my cameras are fun for seeing which animals I’m sharing my space with, and my handful of speakers and displays are useful for controlling all the rest.

But, whether you’re a smart-home enthusiast or just curious about the idea, I would urge you to wait before making any big purchases.

The reason for that is an upcoming smart-home standard called Matter, expected to debut in the next few months, which promises a greater degree of standardization and interoperability between devices. Unfortunately, not all of the current hardware will make the trip to this new land. In fact, Matter won’t even be very good when it debuts, as it won’t support many of the most common smart home devices, including cameras, doorbells, or robotic vacuums.

For those out of the loop, Matter has been a years-long tooth-pulling in the world of smart home hardware. Up until now, many of the things you’d buy would lock you into a specific “ecosystem,” which is a fancy way of saying that if you bought a smart speaker, you’d have to buy a camera that talked to it if you wanted them to work together. So if you bought one of Apple’s smart speakers, it wouldn’t be able to coordinate with something like a Nest doorbell, and an Assistant-compatible vacuum cleaner might not be able to be triggered from Amazon’s Alexa.

The stuff you bought essentially meant you had to choose a team and stick with it for all the other things you’d buy, and if that team made some bad decisions down the line that caused you to reassess that decision, too bad – all the stuff you’ve bought means you’re stuck.

Matter probably won’t entirely fix ecosystem lock-in, as it’s still in some companies’ best interests to try to keep you on their team, but it will expand the level of compatibility we’ll see from third-party devices. That means you might not have to do a ton of research to determine if this smart lock or that smart camera will work with the speakers you’ve bought and the apps on your phone.

But a lot of the existing stuff on the market today won’t end up being Matter-compatible, making a pur-

chase today a potentially poor value in the long run.

While a lot of smart home stuff borders on disposable – both in pricing and, frustratingly, in terms of manufacturer support and longevity – many of the higher-end gadgets can be quite expensive. Google’s battery-powered Nest Cam, which I don’t recommend, runs \$180; smart thermostats can run up to \$250; some display-equipped smart speakers are over \$200; and specialty smart locks in decor-matching colors can cost over \$300.

This stuff can be expensive, and not all of it will be compatible with the new standards. Some manufacturers have already indicated that certain existing devices might be compatible with Matter, and we’ll likely hear more announcements in that vein in the next few months as Matter debuts, but a lot of stuff on shelves right now won’t be Matter-compatible. That means a big investment right now may not pay off later, particularly if Matter shakes things up enough that you have to replace other devices you already own.

It remains to be seen, but Matter might trigger a wave of abandoned “first-gen” smart-home hardware, and these devices don’t follow the typical rules that other gadgets you own do. They *need* to be online and connected to external services to work. If and when support for them is killed for whatever reason, much of your smart home will become very dumb in a hurry.

I hope for the best, but I suspect that Matter’s debut will be an inflection point that some of the less successful names will use to exit the market, and that the increase in competition itself could even see some of the bigger ecosystem names wind down or lean away, switching to a maintenance-mode. As an early-adopting addict, even I’m cooling my heels right now, waiting to see what happens. I’d urge you to do the same.

There is one noteworthy exception to this entire tirade: smart thermostats. Yes, some might not end up being Matter-compatible, but with rising heating costs expected this winter, I think it’s a safe gamble that you’ll end up saving money either way if you buy one.

Because I think it’s more likely to make the trip to the new spec, I’d recommend Google’s Nest thermostats, which come in a few different styles, and prices with varying furnace compatibility – a subject I might dive into in greater depth in my next column.


For more questions about consumer technology, how gadgets work, or which doodad to buy if you need X, Y, and Z, shoot me an email at [deviceadvice@montaguereporter.org](mailto:deviceadvice@montaguereporter.org).

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Montague Community Television News

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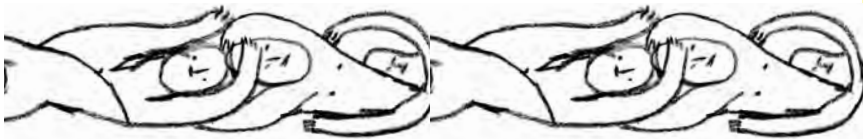
By HANNAH BROOKMAN

**TURNERS FALLS** – MCTV’s footage of the 2022 Montague Soapbox Derby is now uploaded and available on our Vimeo page, along with the Montague and Gill selectboard meetings.

All community members are welcome to submit their videos to be aired on Channel 17 and featured on the MCTV Vimeo page. MCTV is always available to assist in local

video production as well. Cameras, tripods, and lighting equipment are available for checkout, and filming and editing assistance can be provided. And remember, MCTV is still looking for board members!

Something going on you think others would like to see? If you get in touch, we can show you how easy it is to use a camera and capture the moment. Contact us at (413) 863-9200 or [infomontaguetv@gmail.com](mailto:infomontaguetv@gmail.com).



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Gill Cultural Council Seeks Funding Proposals

**GILL** – The Massachusetts Cultural Council has set an October 17 deadline for organizations, schools, and individuals to apply for grants that support cultural activities in the community. The Gill Local Cultural Council has \$5,500 to distribute in 2023.

According to Gill Cultural Council spokesperson Patricia Crosby, these grants can support a variety of artistic projects and activities in Gill and surrounding communities. The Council encourages applications for both online and live events. Gill seeks to bring performers, artists, historians, naturalists, speakers, musicians, and workshop presenters to venues in our town or nearby towns.

Some of the organizations the Gill LCC has granted funds to in recent years include the Slate Memorial Library, the Gill Elementary School, the Gill/Montague Council on Aging, the Gill Historical Commission, the Gill Agricultural Com-

mission, and the Antenna Cloud Farm concert series.

In 2022, the Gill Cultural Council distributed \$5,270 in grants to support 11 different community projects.

Application forms and complete information about the Local Cultural Council Program are available at [www.mass-culture.org](http://www.mass-culture.org). If you have questions about Gill projects or applications, email [lcc@gillmass.org](mailto:lcc@gillmass.org).

The Gill Cultural Council is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The LCC Program is the largest grass-roots cultural funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, sciences and humanities every year. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community.



Local Artist Profile: Aldo G. Pizzi

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

**GREENFIELD** – There is a shop in Greenfield called Goose Divine Energy that is part store and part art gallery. I saw some abstract paintings there this summer, and I liked the looks of some of them, so I decided to write about the artist, Aldo G. Pizzi. I took a card at the store for me to contact him for the article. I ended up getting hold of him for the interview on my first try calling him.

Mr. Pizzi told me he had been doing this for as long as he can remember – “been doing this since I was a kid,” he added. He graduated from San Francisco Art Institute in 1998.

“I have a studio in Shelburne Falls,” he said. “It’s at the Mill building.”

All of the paintings in that show I mentioned were oil-based. I know this from seeing his art at the store and being given a website address.



Aldo Pizzi, “Stellar Winds,” oil on panel, 2021.

Some of his art is oil, and some is charcoal and pastel.

It is what people would call abstract. I would say that about all of the art on his website except for one oil painting called “Morceau,” which I would describe as being something like a picture of shooting stars in almost every way, with a blue back-

ground, except for a yellow line.

Another one like that is called “Stellar Winds,” and resembles some of sort of abstract view of what I believe you would say are those wind-powered turbines used as an energy source. It’s also an oil painting.

“I was always an artist.” That is what Pizzi said when I asked him

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Echoing Gunfire; Shopping Tantrum; Bitten Butt; Big Guy Knocking; Fist-Fighting Kids; Paranoiac

Monday, 9/26

7:59 a.m. Caller from Central Street states that a truck belonging to a resident was struck and damaged last night while parked in the driveway. Report taken.

8:17 a.m. Caller from Hatchery Road states that there is a silver Chevy sedan with a male and a female screaming at each other inside. Vehicle left before officer’s arrival.

2:45 p.m. Caller states that a big black dog was off leash in the Third Street alleyway and came after her and her dog. Animal control officer notified; he will respond when available.

3:05 p.m. Caller from Industrial Boulevard states he can hear what sounds like rapid semi-automatic gunfire coming from the area of the school; has been going on for approximately ten minutes. Received multiple other calls from different addresses on the road stating gunfire in area.

Officer advises everything appears fine at the school; will check area further. Gill PD chief advising one of his officers was shooting and is all done for the day. Officers on foot checking wooded area. Also requesting Gill PD to check area of the Schuetzen Verein, which can sometimes echo through the area. Officers clear; sounds to be possibly someone shooting on their property on West Mineral Road.

7:46 p.m. Caller states that they were just punched in the face at the corner of Third Street and Avenue A; requesting an officer. Caller states they know the first name of the person who punched them and where he lives. Investigated.

Tuesday, 9/27

11:23 a.m. Employee of Eagle Creek Renewable

Energy reporting that the building was broken into and a computer was stolen. Report taken.

2:04 p.m. Employee at Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter advising that a gray/white male pitbull with no collar was just brought in to them. Dog was found on Demers Lane. 2:10 p.m. MassDOT employee would like an officer to come out to Federal Street and investigate illegally dumped garbage/furniture. Officer will follow up with neighbors to see if the items were left there by mistake.

5:58 p.m. Caller from Second Street states that a neighbor dumped a mattress right in front of their address, and it has been there for about three weeks. DPW contacted to pick up mattress.

11:17 p.m. Caller requesting officer to FL Roberts, as he feels unsafe leaving the store due to a male party being outside in the parking lot. Officer advises caller left store upon officer’s arrival. No further issues.

Wednesday, 9/28

4:58 a.m. Party into station reporting suspicious vehicle parked behind her house a couple of weeks ago; tonight she was alerted by her dog barking and hearing noise in the woodline, and experienced the same thing. Caller advises she came right to the station after hearing the noise and seeing the vehicle again. Officer spoke with female, checked backyard and surrounding area, and did not access a vehicle. Rabbits were noted to be in the backyard area. No footprints observed in the dew on the grass. No further issues at this time.

7:35 p.m. Caller states that a male and female party

were yelling in the Family Dollar parking lot, and a kid lying on the ground was also yelling. Officer advises they were gone on arrival; spoke to an employee who stated that the child was having a tantrum.

7:46 p.m. Caller stated that she saw a bear walking from Second Street to the Discovery Center. Officer advises negative findings.

Thursday, 9/29

4:13 p.m. Caller states that she was walking on Fifth Street and a dog bit her on the butt. Declined medical attention. Dog is described as a pitbull mix, brown with a little bit of black with a chain leash. Owner is a male, 6 feet tall, with curly black hair, glasses, a black shirt, and grey sweatpants. Referred to an officer.

4:51 p.m. Caller from G Street states that there are approximately five people yelling and screaming at each other in her neighbor’s backyard. Officer advises parties separated upon arrival.

4:55 p.m. Caller from Station Street reporting a loose dog in the area, appears to be a pitbull mix, fawn color. Caller called back to state that the dog is back with its owner.

5:34 p.m. Caller states that the door in the alleyway that goes into the kitchen of Hubie’s Tavern and Restaurant is wide open, and it appears that the cellar door has been kicked in. Officer advises that the cellar door is kicked in on the side. Officers checked basement; nothing showing. Investigated.

10:24 p.m. 911 caller from K Street states that there is an unwanted male party banging on her back door; he is a big guy, and she is scared. She stated that he is intoxicated. Officer providing a courtesy trans-

port for the male party.

Friday, 9/30

2:38 p.m. Walk-in requests to speak with an officer regarding items stolen from his house on L Street. Referred to an officer.

Saturday, 10/1

12:30 a.m. Caller states she is locked out of the gate on Migratory Way, but her car is inside. Caller states she works there and took a government vehicle from there earlier today, but the clicker in the Jeep is not letting her in the gate. Officer en route to attempt to open gate.

9:25 a.m. Caller from Vladish Avenue reports that her dog was attacked by her neighbor’s pitbull/boxer mix yesterday afternoon. Message left for animal control officer.

1:43 p.m. Female is en route to the kennel with two dogs she found on the Montague Plains: one black Lab and one yellow Lab. Officer will meet her there. Dogs secured in kennel.

9:35 p.m. 911 caller from Third Street advising that some kids were fist-fighting outside of this location. Fight has ended; caller is unsure whether there are any injuries. Area quiet. Knocked on door; no answer.

Sunday, 10/2

4:36 a.m. Caller from Randall Road states that she is being harassed by her neighbors again. Area clear. Unfounded.

8 a.m. Caller states he heard a very loud explosion and believes it came from the downtown Millers Falls area; advised his cable went out, but the power is still on. Officer checked Millers Falls; nothing found.

12:31 p.m. Caller reporting a vehicle accident on the Greenfield side of the White Bridge. Three more 911 calls stating the same. No parties who called were involved in the accident. GPD notified. MPD officers responding to assist.

5:57 p.m. Caller states that two motorcycles went by on Millers Falls Road at approximately 80 mph about 30 minutes ago. Caller states that they have a lot of traffic issues this time of night; also, when the Tech School gets out, vehicles travel past at high speeds. Requesting patrols for traffic enforcement in area during these times.

9:02 p.m. Caller states that a male and female are having a verbal altercation on Fourth Street. Area all quiet.

Monday, 10/3

4:39 a.m. Caller from Randall Road states she woke up to a tapping noise on her window, and believes someone is outside. Referred to an officer.

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EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Migrations Festival This Saturday!

**TURNERS FALLS** – The public is invited to the 6th Annual Migrations Festival this Saturday, October 8 at the Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A in Turners Falls, from 1 to 4 p.m. This celebration of human and natural diversity will feature colorful Guatemalan art, depicting scenes integral to village life around Lake Atitlan.

At 1:30 p.m. MarKamusic will perform lively, high-energy music deeply rooted in the folkloric traditions of South and Latin America. This free family event will also offer crafts for kids, refreshments and an art raffle. The Discovery Center is wheelchair accessible.

Sponsored by DCR, Montague Catholic Social Ministries, RiverCulture, the Nolumbeka Project, Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center, the GuateMaya Art and Culture Connection, and the people of Turners Falls.

See [www.riverculture.org](http://www.riverculture.org) for more information.

*Right: MarKamusic will play a free set at 1:30 p.m.*



SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Art Exhibit by Local Afghan Refugees



*This painting by ArtLords member Zubra will be on display at the one-day pop-up exhibit on Monday, October 17.*

**BRATTLEBORO, VT** – This past August, downtown Brattleboro was the site of 17 temporary murals made by local members of the Afghan-led collective ArtLords. Created with support from the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center (BMAC) and in collaboration with the Providence-based public art group Tape Art, the murals paid homage to ArtLords murals in Kabul destroyed by the Taliban in 2021.

The five ArtLords members who reside in Brattleboro – Marwa, Negin, Meera, Zubra, and Abdullah – will join other local Afghan creators for a free one-day pop-up exhibition at BMAC on Monday, October 17, from 2 to 8 p.m. The ArtLords will

arrive at 2 p.m. to create a painting on panels in a gallery. The public is invited to view the mural in progress. The exhibit also features work by other recently arrived Afghan refugees, including handmade kites, robots built by a robotics expert, and garments made by a sewing group.

There will be a celebration from 5 to 7 p.m., with remarks by the artists at 6 p.m. The exhibit is presented in collaboration with the Multicultural Community Center of Southern Vermont, an arm of the Ethiopian Community Development Council (ECDC), the federal resettlement agency for southern Vermont. For more information call (802) 257-0124 or see [brattleboromuseum.org](http://brattleboromuseum.org).

**VALLEY VIEW** from page B1 are proudly standing today in surrounding communities. Plus, many architectural elements – such as doors, floorboards, staircases, mantles, raised paneling, and chestnut-framing timbers – were saved, stored, and recycled into buildings new and old.

How do you beat that for authenticity?

The historical bombshell dropped by Paul Olszewski was that Gass was also known for sprucing up tired old house exteriors with an outer coating of preservative stucco. Apparently, another trademark of his are the distinctive cobblestone porches I’ve known since childhood without a hint about their Gass origin.

Upon learning of these two signature design details, I could immediately name examples from my old hometown. During a brief visit a day or two later, on a quick loop around the downtown area, I passed a few that had escaped my memory. I will surely recognize more in my future travels.

### Stucco In The Past

I couldn’t have learned of Gass’s stucco background at a more appropriate time. In recent weeks my attention had turned to the house on North Main Street I knew as “the Dana Jewett place,” with its narrow swath of pine woods running west to the railroad tracks along the northern border of the Frontier Regional School athletic fields.

I was recently perplexed when a dependable nonagenarian source told me that when she was young, this palatial home was brick. Familiar with the building since as far back as my memory reaches, I knew it only as stucco. When I contacted the current owner, the fact that it was a brick building was also news to her.

Researching the property further, I found that Henry D. Packard had the home built in 1912 and moved into it with his wife Jeannie C. in 1913. The Packards died within a week of each other thirty-five years later, in early December 1947 – the same year my nonagenarian source graduated Deerfield High School. Two months later, Jewett bought the place.

I suspected it was Jewett who had hired a local contractor to spruce up his new digs with a fresh sheet of white stucco, remarkably similar to that of a home a half-mile up the street. Maybe, I speculated, the two homes had been treated by the same hand.

Although it made perfect sense that a man of Jewett’s social status would have used a master such as Gass for home-improvement projects, I never thought of Gass as a potential stucco contractor. I knew of him only as a skilled finish carpenter, not a mason or plasterer. Once I learned that he was associated with stucco restoration, I surmised it most likely that he would have hired masons for that chore. Who these masons were is anyone’s guess, and might in my estimation be difficult

to ascertain before the Gass clue.

So I did a little more poking around and, sure enough, Gass’s younger brother Samuel was a mason who liberally advertised many services in his newspaper ads, including plastering. Although I can’t say for sure that Samuel worked for his older brother, it’s a safe assumption. The brothers lived their entire lives in South Deerfield, and as adults owned downtown homes within shouting distance.

### A Family Legacy

So, yes indeed, it’s likely that many stucco coverings and cobblestone porches in town were the handiwork of Samuel, of whom I have no recollection. He died in 1962, when I was 9. I do remember his wife and their disabled, adopted son.

I also have vague memories of Bill Gass, a downtown regular who died in 1986. I can still visualize his trademark bow tie and, if memory serves me, suspenders. I was more familiar with his sons, Ed and Billy, who were of my father’s vintage, and knew his grandchildren, Paul and Karen, better.

I never realized how little I really knew about the Bill Gass family before my recent research. Online data unveils a prolific Irish family of local building contractors beginning with William Gass, Sr. (1878-1952), whose obituary says he was born in Newburgh, New York and had lived in South Deerfield for 58 years, which brings us back to 1894.

That information doesn’t square with his father’s FindAGrave profile, which claims that Samuel Gass was born in Ireland in 1845 and died in 1885 in South Deerfield, where he is buried. So, it would appear that the family touched down in South Deerfield long before 1894. Sons Thomas J. (born 1877) and William E. (born 1878), both future Franklin County contractors, would have both been 7 at the time of their father’s death, Thomas soon to be 8.

William E. Gass, Sr., married Bridget Toomey from Whately in 1901. In 1908, he was awarded the contract to build the downtown Redmen’s Block, which opened in early June 1909 on the corner of South Main and Elm streets. On the second floor was the spacious Redman’s Hall, which hosted meetings, gala dances, weddings and other gatherings, and basketball games. The tall building met the wrecking ball in 1978 and was replaced by the modern Deerfield Spirit Shoppe building on the lot today.

Sons and grandsons of William and Thomas carried on the prolific Gass tradition for many years, establishing sterling reputations as building contractors in Deerfield, Greenfield, and Amherst. Examples of the Gass dynasty’s work can be found in many Franklin and Hampshire County communities.

From humble beginnings, the Gass boys worked hard, and left a legacy that will outlive us all.



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NOTES from page B1

As someone who has battled depression my entire life, the rush of the helper’s high is a great way to relieve my own suffering. We are challenged daily by the realities of climate change, gender hysteria, political divisiveness, economic insecurity, and, of course, the coronavirus that stood the world on its head. Feelings of fear and anguish are very real for many people today.

Believe me when I say that it is very difficult to mope and stew over one’s own problems while helping someone else with theirs. It takes the focus off of our internal dialogue, the one that doesn’t always have our best interests at heart.

When our bodies are stressed, we produce cortisol, which then impairs our cognitive functioning and our immune system. Being lonely can be extremely stressful for an individual, and a moment of recognition from another person can be enough to raise someone’s mood and feelings of self-esteem.

I realize that not everyone is comfortable with giving selflessly. Some believe that “their time is their inventory,” but I believe that to be the antithesis of volunteerism. By adding a price tag to our time, we take selflessness out of the voluntary act and turn it into an economic transaction rather than something given freely without the expectation of reward.

Jews learn of *tzedakah*, the Jewish concept of charitable giving, and perhaps it was that which motivated me to help others. But I also

recall the real-life lesson of people in need when as a young girl my mother told my sister and me about visiting the family who had purchased our former home. We found the young boys were children of heroin addicts and, it turned out, were neglected, unfed, and wearing our old nightgowns. I understood I had more than those boys did, and believed it was something I could help to change.

In the 1980s when AIDS was a big concern, a family friend produced the first AIDS Walk: Los Angeles, and this was my introduction to my lifelong volunteer career. In spite of working full time since I was 17, attending multiple community colleges – five over 12 years – and three years of full-time college in my 40s, I have always made time to volunteer, whether wrapping presents for wards of the State of California, reading to the blind, or raising funds for charity.

Since I’ve lived in Greenfield I continue to visit hospice patients as a companion, and I have delivered library books to the homebound, meals to the elderly, and cooked and served at Stone Soup Café. Just after my retirement a few years ago, I bartered for my membership at the Y with my grantwriting skills. Sometimes you actually do get rewarded for volunteering beyond the good feeling of reaching out to others.

There are so many ways to give back to your community and around the world, as you lend your time, your expertise, and perhaps even your dollars to support and help



Spending one to two hours a week visiting, chatting with, or reading to terminally ill people brings joy and light into the lives of everyone involved.

others make their way through a complicated, and – let’s face it – not very equitable or easy world for most people.

It can be awkward to be around those who may be suffering or going through a tough time. But when you put your energy and positivity toward another person, it will change

both of your lives for the better. It’s hard to avoid feeling good about giving. And don’t forget, you meet some pretty cool and compassionate people when you volunteer.

Finding volunteer work is easy. Google is always your friend to help you on this journey, and the Red Cross and United Way offer

resources, too. You can also reach out directly to local schools, houses of worship, social service agencies, parks and recreation departments, libraries, hospices, and hospitals and ask what type of volunteer programs they have.

It’s good to think about what you like doing. Volunteer work doesn’t have to be a chore. Maybe you like to read aloud: find a preschool or library that would love to have you at storytime. If you like driving, how about delivering meals to the elderly? Maybe you have a skill to teach others like carpentry, bicycle repair, or how to fill out a job application – the opportunities are endless, and it’s not hard to find places right under your nose that could benefit greatly from your time.

Maybe you don’t have time to give, but have other resources to share. I also do a revolving \$50 microloan through *Kiva.org* where I lend my money to a small business owner somewhere around the world. It’s paid back with interest over 90 days, and the same \$50 is reinvested over and over.

Don’t misunderstand me, I do not volunteer or do things for others in hopes that someone will do the same for me. But in the grand scheme of life, I do think that the more human connection we have, the more our lives are embellished and enjoyed and, really, can it hurt to extend and enlarge our circle of those we can count on when it’s most needed? Go do something nice for someone, and feel that endorphin rush!

FACES AND PLACES



Montague Center painter Mishael Coggeshall-Burr (left) and his partner Nadya Tkachenko (right), at last Saturday’s reception for Coggeshall-Burr’s show “Ukraine: Courage Has Two Colors.” The event raised funds for Project Nadiya, a nonprofit founded by Tkachenko to provide housing for internally displaced Ukrainians (see our September 29 article, or [project-nadiya.com/donate](http://project-nadiya.com/donate)).

CALL FOR ENTRIES  
Light Up The Fairgrounds

**GREENFIELD** – Your favorite Franklin County holiday tradition is back. WHAI, Bear Country, The Outlaw, and EZ 107.5 invite you to “light up the Fairgrounds” at the third annual Light Up the Fairgrounds drive-through holiday light spectacular! Organizers are seeking entries of thoughtful, well-crafted holiday light displays that can be erected at the Fairgrounds for the three-week-end drive-through event.

There is no cost to enter, but entrants will be responsible for all costs incurred to create the display. Entries will be juried to avoid duplication and to ensure balance. The event will feature more than 50 dazzling displays created by local businesses, individuals, and organizations.

Every entry accepted will be eligible to win cash prizes. Prizes will be awarded at the end of the event, based on tallies of votes cast by attendees. (Details at [whai.com](http://whai.com).)

The community will be invited to drive through the Fairgrounds and see the displays for a minimum donation of \$5 per car, on November 25, 26, and 27, December 2, 3, and 4, and December 9, 10, and 11. The gates open each evening at 5 p.m., with the last car in at 8 p.m.

This is a fundraiser, and proceeds from entrance fees will be donated to the following nonprofits: Big Brothers Big Sisters of Franklin County, the Franklin County Sheriff’s Office Regional Dog Shelter, and the Franklin County Fairgrounds itself.

Contest rules, event information, and entry forms are available at [www.whai.com](http://www.whai.com), [bear953.com](http://bear953.com), and [bbbs-fc.org](http://bbbs-fc.org).

EXHIBITS

**Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls:** *Migrations*, celebrating the human and natural diversity of the upper Connecticut River Valley and the Americas. Colorful paintings curated by GuateMaya Art and Culture Connection depict scenes integral to village life, Mayan culture, and the history of Lake Atitlan. Through November 1. Sixth Annual Migrations Festival this Saturday, October 8, from 1 to 4 p.m.

**Rendezvous, Turners Falls:** *Interotine*, mixed-media work by Turners Falls resident Desi Lowit. Through November.

**Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett:** *Out of the Shadows*. Twelve artists traverse the border between worlds and find refuge in hidden realms. Through October.

**Artspace Gallery, Greenfield:** *Botanical Portraits*, by fine art flower photographer and grower Jean Gran. Through October 28. Reception this Friday, October 7 at 5:30 p.m.

**LAVA Center and Looky Here, Greenfield:** *Heart’s Desire*, Susan Crolus and Art + Soul. A retrospective of art and events over the last nine years by the Art + Soul community. Listen to live and virtual readings from Art + Soul writers. Events throughout October listed on [localaccess.org](http://localaccess.org).

**Memorial Hall, Deerfield:** Landscape paintings by *Robert Strong Woodward* (1885-1957). Through October.

**Fiddleheads Gallery, North-**

**field:** *Sticks & Stones*. Artists interpret the whimsical theme of sticks and/or stones in sculpture, mixed media, mosaic, fiber art, and more. Through November 6.

**Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls:** *William Hays*, color-reduction woodcut and linocut prints of the New England landscape and architecture. *Carolyn Webb*, drawings and prints using patterns surrounding grief, colors, reflections. Through October.

**Shelburne Arts Coop Gallery, Shelburne Falls:** *Local Color*. Member artists and crafters present their work. Through October.

**Gallery A3, Amherst:** *Deciphered Objects*, Laura Holand. Artist’s books telling the stories of everyday objects. Through October.

**Anchor House of Artists, Northampton:** *Any Body: Poems, Portraits, & Poses*, paintings by Rachel Jenkins. Through October 21.

**Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro:** *Mundane Monsters*. Kristofer Ørum combines augmented reality, 3D printing, video, wireless transmissions, and sculpture to summon forth everyday beasts from the cracks between the real and the imagined. Through October 7.

**Brattleboro Museum & Art Center:** *Felt Experience*, group show of felt artists. Also exhibiting: Beth Galston, Frank Jackson, Mie Yim, Nebizun, Roberley Bell, and Oasa Duverney. Through October 10. [www.brattleboromuseum.org](http://www.brattleboromuseum.org).

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FRONTIERS

# Manufacturing Microchips

By SPENCER SHORKEY

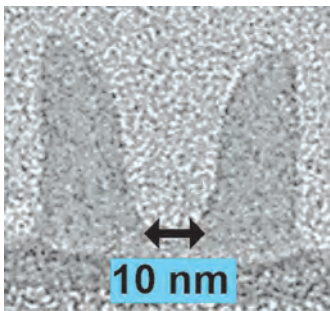
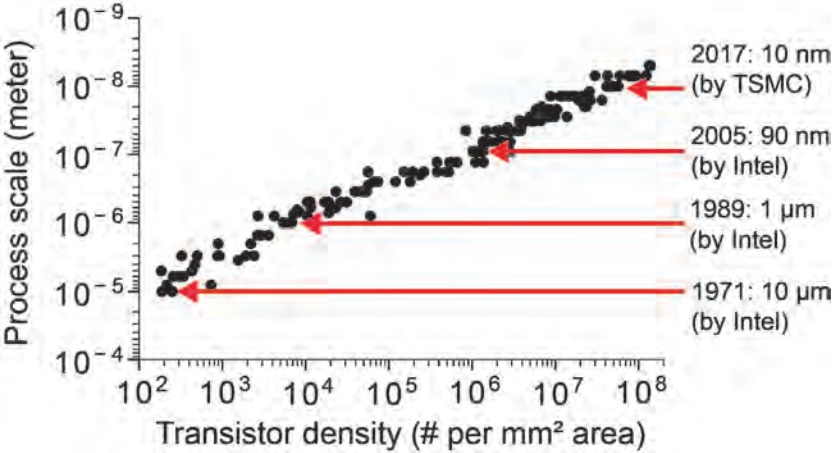
**MILLERS FALLS** – For most of us, computer chips are impossible to avoid in our daily lives. They are in our smartphones, vehicles, appliances, traffic lights, credit cards, and renewable power systems. Computer chips allow our society to function more efficiently in many ways, such as increased communications between people, and increased automation of utilities and industries via networks of devices and sensors. However, our increased reliance on computerized systems also leaves our information systems, utilities, and industries vulnerable in many ways.

The third industrial revolution, or “digital revolution,” began with the conception and implementation of the stored-program computer. Famed (and tragically persecuted) scientist Alan Turing first described the “universal computing machine” concept in a 1936 paper, which was successfully implemented by the late 1940s and early 1950s.

Early computers were huge, consisting of thousands of glass vacuum-tube logic components, and power-hungry. They were mostly used by institutions for research and by the military to simulate bombs, replacing hundreds of humans doing calculations by hand. One early computer, UNIVAC I, could perform 1,905 operations per second using 125 kilowatts of power. A modern Samsung Exynos 2100 mobile processor is 10 billion times faster and 10 million times smaller, all while using 10 thousandfold less power.

Innovations at Fairchild Semiconductor in the USA around 1960 brought about silicon-based integrated circuit “chips” and semiconductor logic components, also known as transistors. Several of Fairchild’s top researchers later left to start Intel Corporation in 1968.

One of these co-founders was Gordon Moore, who famously predicted that chip complexity would increase exponentially over



Top: Advancements in chip fabrication process scale (vertical axis) have enabled exponential growth of transistor density (horizontal axis), and thus of circuit complexity.

Left: An electron microscope image of a transistor, with double arrows indicating a scale of 10 nanometers.

time, a trend that became known as “Moore’s law” and has held true for the 50-plus years since.

The complexity of a microchip can be assessed by the number of transistors in a given area, a number which increases as the size of the transistor decreases. Construction of these silicon chips is done by an ever-evolving collection of processes known as “lithography.”

Unsurprisingly, Intel is consistently an industry leader in microchip manufacturing, setting landmarks in chip fabrication process scale at 10 micrometers (μm) in 1971, 1.5 μm in 1982, 250 nanometers (nm) in 1998, 90 nm in 2005, and 14 nm in 2015.

More recently, Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC) and South Korea’s Samsung seem to have taken a lead, with both now fabricating at 5 nm and 3 nm process scales. There is not much more room to continue scaling down silica-based integrated circuits, since a 1 nm distance would be only 5 silicon atoms wide!

Asian chip manufacturing is ahead of American not just in some

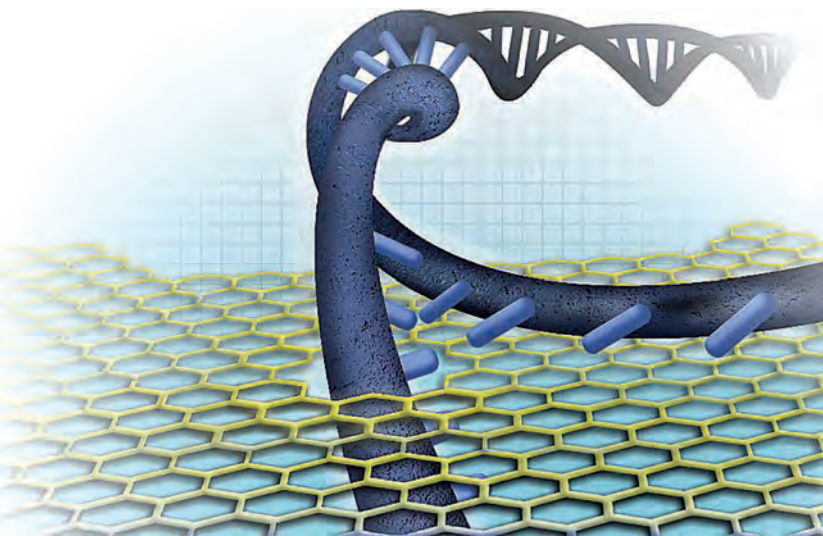
technological measures, but in market share as well. In 1990, the US produced 37% of global semiconductor supply; by 2020, it had dropped to 12%. The relative lack of domestic semiconductor production leaves our modern economy vulnerable to supply chain disruptions, particularly as the economy increasingly moves toward electrification and renewable power. The current semiconductor supply chain shortage, which began in 2021 and disrupted several industries, is expected to last until at least 2024.

To mitigate this vulnerability, the US Congress passed the CHIPS and Science Act this August. In just the next year, the Fed’s will be doling out \$19 billion to semiconductor manufacturers setting up new production, with a cap of up to \$3 billion per manufacturer. The program will run for five years, with \$5 billion annually similarly allocated after this year. The law also gives a 25% investment tax credit to manufacturers.

This all comes with a catch, though: any manufacturers taking the US government handouts cannot set up any new manufacturing in China for 10 years thereafter.

Major chip manufacturers are building new plants in the US already, though it will take several years for new chip fabrication plants to begin production. Global Foundries, which has operated a chip plant in New York since 2009, will build a second plant there at a cost of \$6 to \$8 billion. TSMC plans to open a \$12 billion plant in Arizona by 2024, and Samsung has a \$17 billion plant set to come online in Texas the same year.

Texas Instruments is building a \$30 billion site in Texas, to begin producing in 2025. And Intel is investing \$100 billion into a new “mega-site” of manufacturing fa-



A circuit-integrated biosensor for sensing DNA molecules, consisting of a “nanopore” embedded in an atomically thin carbon sheet.

MEDICINE

# On Breast Cancer

By CATHERINE DODDS, M.D.

**TURNERS FALLS** – October is breast cancer awareness month. Bring out the pink ribbons!

Breast cancer is the most common non-skin cancer. Nearly 300,000 people in the US are diagnosed with breast cancer each year, and roughly 1 in 8 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer during their lifetime. We all have friends or family who have been through breast cancer diagnosis and treatment. The vast majority of breast cancers occur in women, but 0.1% of all breast cancers are diagnosed in men, so a breast lump or breast pain in a man should be evaluated.

When found and treated early, breast cancer is usually curable. Most people diagnosed with breast cancer will live for years, or even decades, with appropriate medical treatment. However, because of how common breast cancer is overall, it remains the second most common cause of cancer death in women.

If you feel a lump in your breast, see your healthcare provider right away. Breast lumps can be caused by conditions that are not cancer, but it is a good idea to have any lumps checked out.

For women between the ages of 50 and 75 – and also for some women outside that age range – mammograms are done every one to two years as a screening test to try to detect a cancer before it can be felt as a lump. If the mammogram shows an area of concern, further imaging may be done, or a biopsy (a sample of the breast tissue) may be taken to look for cancer.

There are several types of breast cancer, classified based on where in the breast the cancer cells are. Ductal carcinomas (arising from the breast ducts) are most common, roughly 75% of all breast cancers. An additional 20% of breast cancers are either lobular carcinomas (arising from breast fibrous and fat tissue) or have mixed ductal and lobular features.

Breast cancer can be found at various stages. Most breast cancers in the modern era are diagnosed on a screening mammogram, before a lump can be felt. Sometimes a patient comes to a healthcare provider because they

find a lump in their breast. Often, the lump is small enough that it can easily be removed to cure the cancer. In other cases, the breast cancer has already spread to other parts of the body by the time it is diagnosed – this is called metastatic breast cancer.

Breast cancer uses the *tumor, node, and metastasis* (TNM) staging system, which takes into account the size of the primary tumor, as well as whether cancer cells are found in the lymph nodes in the armpit, or elsewhere in the body. Treatment decisions depend on the TNM staging.

Most people diagnosed with breast cancer are treated by lumpectomy surgery, to remove only the part of the breast with the cancer, or a mastectomy surgery, to remove most or all of the breast. Usually, one or more of the lymph nodes in the armpit on the same side of the breast are removed as part of the surgery, to be tested for cancer.

Radiation therapy is generally needed after lumpectomy, and sometimes also after mastectomy. Chemotherapy, hormone therapy, or specific targeted medications may also be recommended, depending on the specific details seen on the breast cancer biopsy, including whether it has high levels of receptors for estrogen, progesterone, and human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER-2).

Metastatic cancer is treated differently, since it is not ultimately curable, but in many cases even metastatic breast cancer can be controlled or halted for years with current medication options, with few symptoms or side effects.

People who are at high risk of getting breast cancer due to multiple close family members with breast cancer or genetic mutations in specific genes – BRCA 1 and BRCA 2, for example – are sometimes recommended to work with a genetic counselor to consider additional testing such as breast ultrasounds and MRIs, or more frequent screening tests. High-risk individuals may also take a medicine preventatively to reduce their likelihood of getting breast cancer.

If you have a strong family history of breast cancer, ask your healthcare provider about your options.


cilities in Ohio, with the first also coming online in 2025.

Another aspect of the CHIPS Act extends to academic research and development, with \$11 billion going to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). Through NIST, the National Semiconductor Technology Center will develop an academic-industry chip prototyping partnership, which will allow for university researchers to have new devices and chip designs prototyped into integrated circuits, with all designs and manufacturing processes to be made open source

(released to the public). Google has already signed on to help with designs, which will be manufactured by SkyWater at their 130 nm chip fabricator in Minnesota. And just this week, Micron announced plans to invest up to \$100 billion in chip plants in New York state over the next two decades.

This will pave the way for researchers’ innovative nanoelectronics to be tested in integrated circuits, which will go a long way in bringing potential breakthrough biosensors and other innovative chip designs into reality.

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



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**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6**

Montague Village Store, Montague Center: *Lexi Weege & JJ Slater*. Free. 5:30 p.m.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Sarah Davachi* on pipe organ; *Chuck Johnson*. \$ 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Daniel Gay Cacophony*. Free. 9 p.m.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7**

Four Star Farms, Northfield: *Rosie Porter*. Free. 5 p.m.

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Lori McKenna*. \$ 7 p.m.

Daily Operation, Easthampton: *billy woods, Breeze Brewin'*. \$ 7 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Greg Kelley* quartet, *Baldwin/Gelineau/Meginsky* trio, *Matt Krefting*. \$ 7 p.m.

Hadley Public Library, Hadley: Flywheel Arts presents *Mike Baggetta, Ava Mendoza*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Mullins Center, UMass-Amherst: *Trippie Redd*. \$ 8:30 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Kal-bells, Erica Esso*. \$ 9:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8**

Mystery Train Records, Amherst: *Bill Stone, Wednesday Knudsen, Junk Orbit, Shannon Ketch*. \$ 6 p.m.

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Majid Bekkas*. \$ 7 p.m.

Anchor House, Northampton: *Terzett, Hollow Deck*. \$ 7 p.m.

DCU Center, Worcester: *Walker Hayes, Parmalee*. \$ 7 p.m.

Mount Toby Meetinghouse, Leverett: *Scott Cook, Pamela Mae*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Nemesister, Pussyvision, Orange-peelmythic, Lucie R.* \$ 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Tap-*

*Roots, Sugar Kings*. \$ 8 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *The Nields*. \$ 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Olivia Nied*. Free. 9:30 p.m.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9**

Next Stage Arts, Putney VT: *Tony Trischka and Robot Plane, Hot Mustard*. \$ 7 p.m.

Easthampton Congregational Church: *Landowner, Sensor Ghost*. \$ 7 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Thus Love, Guy Ferrari, Greg Freeman*. \$ 7 p.m.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Billy Bragg, Alice Phoebe Lou*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *W.I.T.C.H.* (legendary Zambian psych), *Paint*. \$ 8 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Movie, Vampyros Lesbos* (1971). 8 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12**

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Black Uhuru*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Falltown String Band*. Free. 8 p.m.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13**

Palladium, Worcester: *Carnifex, Spite, Oceano*, more. \$ 6 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *The Huntress and Holder of Hands, Dead Gowns*. \$ 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *June Star*. Free. 9 p.m.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14**

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Soul Magnets*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Float*, ambient/hip hop/footwork night feat. *DJ Kief Sweat*. \$ 8 p.m.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *The Wallbangers, Shri! Pill, Eleanor Levine*. \$ 8 p.m.

The Wheelhouse at Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Jules Findlay, FB Blacc, Kiexiza Rodriguez, Tuneleef*, more. \$ 10 p.m.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15**

Element Brewing, Millers Falls: *Cyrus & Oz*. Free. 4 p.m.

Pioneer Valley Brewing, Turners Falls: *Chick-n-Wire*. Free. 7 p.m.

Luthier's Co-op, Easthampton: *The 413s*. \$ 7 p.m.

Nova Arts, Keene: *The Huntress and Holder of Hands, Dead Gowns*. \$ 7 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Red Jasper*. \$ 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Just Fine Thank You Band*. 9:30 p.m.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16**

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Spirits of Leo, Old Moon, Dutch Experts*. \$ 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Goblet, Faced, Screams of Hockomock, Machine Gun Mayhem, Bent*. \$ 7 p.m.

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 17**

DCU Center, Worcester: *Iron Maiden*. \$ 7 p.m.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22**

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *La Neve, Feminine Aggression, Valley Gals*. \$ 7 p.m.



JOEL PAXTON ILLUSTRATION

**OVER THE HILL**

Carolyn Clark



JAN ATAMIAN ILLUSTRATION

**Three Degrees of Warming**

By Janice Rowan



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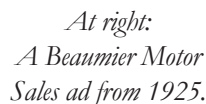
SIDE 2



Just four years later, in 1922, my father Henry G. Boucher was born to Henry and Eva (Fugere) Boucher. However, few noticed Junior's debut. The big news around Turners

Henry E. Beaumier had lived most of his long life on Central Street in Turners Falls, where many middle class folks then lived, halfway up the Hill. His sister, Lena (Beaumier) Fugere, had lived "downtown" on Third Street off Avenue A at the time, where many mill workers had lived. My Dad must have visited his grand-

*Louise Boucher Croll was raised in Turners Falls. She lives in South Hadley now, with her husband and two dogs.*



*Beaumier Motor Sales, overlooking the canal and mills, in the post-WWII era.*

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An advertisement for A.C. Rist Insurance Agency. The top half features the text "Precious Cargo? We've got you covered!" in a large, bold, red font against a light blue sky background. Below the text is a cartoon illustration of a black and white dog wearing a red scarf, sitting in the bed of a red vintage pickup truck. The truck has a sign on its side that reads "SINCE 1988" and "A.C. Rist INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.". The truck is parked on a field of yellow flowers, with a yellow shovel stuck in the ground next to it. The background shows rolling green hills under a blue sky.

A stylized illustration of a green bicycle. The frame, handlebars, and seat are green. The wheels have a green and white segmented pattern. A basket on the front handlebars contains a pink flower, a green leafy plant, and a small orange water bottle. The background is white.

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